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Palestinian Affairs

"Yasir 'Arafat will be hospitalized again to undergo more head surgery as a follow-up to earlier surgery" because "the first operation did not stop the bleeding that resulted from 'Arafat's injury in the recent plane crash in the Libyan desert," Beirut AL-SHIRA' reported.

Israel

Polling stations around Israel opened on 23 June and "voting for the 13th Knesset has commenced," Jerusalem radio reported, adding that in preparation for the elections, "security forces imposed a 24-hour closure on the territories" and "raised the level of alert to prevent riots."

Palestinian-Jordanian Delegation Meets

Amman TV reported that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations held a meeting at the Foreign Ministry, where the official spokesman for the Jordanian delegation Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said, "Our position on the Israeli elections is clear, namely that we are prepared to speak with any Israeli Government."

Iraq

For the third time this year, Iraq began negotiations with the UN on resuming Iraqi oil exports, BABIL reported. According to the report, an Iraqi representative said "We are ready to export oil as of tomorrow," but "it all depends on...the United Nations."

An opposition group has "revealed" that Saddam's brother Barzan al-Takriti is "coordinating and supervising terrorist activities in Europe from his office in Geneva," the Voice of the Iraqi People reported. The group claims Barzan "gave orders" for two assassinations in London.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat To Undergo Further Head Surgery

NC2306141592 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
22 Jun 92 p 13

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat will be hospitalized again to undergo more head surgery as a follow-up to earlier surgery. It appears the first operation did not stop the bleeding that resulted from 'Arafat's injury in the recent plane crash in the Libyan desert.

This is the opinion of physicians who examined 'Arafat after he had undergone the first operation to determine the cause of a headache. 'Arafat complained of a recurring headache after his speedy discharge from al-Husayn medical hospital.

Editorial Views U.S. 'Right To Kidnap'

PM1906142692 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI
in Arabic 17 Jun 92 p 11

[Editorial: "Legitimate U.S. Piracy?"]

[Text] In the monopolar era everything has become permissible for the United States and its President, George Bush. Having confirmed its hegemony over the United Nations and its Security Council and having issued the international resolutions that it wanted and that serve its foreign orientations, here it is now officially starting to interfere in other states' affairs and to kill and kidnap whichever of these states' citizens it wants, under any pretext, from terrorism to combating drug smuggling.

The day before yesterday the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision granting the government the right to kidnap hundreds of people, especially from Middle Eastern states, whose names are on the lists of suspects and to bring them to the United States to stand trial.

Issuing such a decision means giving the CIA a free hand to roam freely in the Arab states and other Third World states to kidnap and kill anyone accused of terrorism or of hostility to the United States.

The decision coincided with the imposition of the starvation siege on both Iraq and Libya. It means that the United States, which has increased its intelligence agency's budget, has made up its mind to kidnap the two Libyan citizens accused of blowing up the U.S. plane over Lockerbie and to pursue and kidnap all leaders of Palestinian organizations who have exercised their legitimate right to struggle to recover their legitimate rights.

And it cannot be ruled out that Washington is planning to kidnap Arab leaders such as Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to bring them to trial on numerous charges, if it can, as happened with Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega.

This U.S. decision lacks any legal or moral legitimacy. It sets a precedent that reveals the extent of U.S. arrogance, conceit, and high-handedness in dealing with other states and peoples.

The world is governed by laws and agreements between states that prohibit interference in internal affairs and that respect each state's sovereignty over its own land. If every state is entitled to practice kidnapping and killing inside the boundaries of another state, what is the purpose of the extradition treaties signed between respectable states for exchanging criminals and outlaws?

Also, we wonder what the U.S. rsponse would have been if a state such as the Soviet Union, in the good old days, had issued such a law and kinapped Soviet spies who defected to the United States or U.S. terrorists who carried out operations for U.S. intelligence in Moscow or other former Socialist bloc states?

We also wonder whether the United States would respect a similar law issued in Britain and implemented by British intelligence by kidnapping some of the IRA elements whom the United States refuses to hand over. We are also entitled to ask whether that U.S. law will be applied against Israel and the other European states that are U.S. allies, or whether its application will be confined to Iraq, Libya, and some Palestinian organizations.

The United States is crossing the red lines in the Middle East, boasting of its might to the Arabs, entering a minefield. They do so because any attempt on its part to kidnap Palestinian leaders such as "Abu-al-'Abbas," kidnappers of U.S. hostages, or Libyan citizens, or to use Mossad's services in this regard will be extremely costly. Not all Arab leaders are like Noriega, and state recourse to kidnapping is a form of piracy no less serious than that practiced by the mafia and means an endless vicious circle of violence. The United States, its citizens, and its interests will be harmed by that more than anyone else.

Further on Palestinian Meeting in Amman

'Confederation' Ruled Out

TA2206121092 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
22 Jun 92 p 1

[Report by "special" AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Amman—During the Amman meetings, which are being held at the highest levels, a responsible Jordanian source ruled out the proclamation of a confederation between Jordan and the occupied Arab territories. He stated that there is an agreement on the conditions for proclaiming a confederation, most important of which are: ending the Israeli occupation and adopting a democratic approach to garner popular support for such a step.

He explained that what is currently taking place between Jordan and the Palestinian leadership is a return to the agreement of 11 February 1985, which provides for a joint approach toward seeking a peaceful solution based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and their promotion.

The Jordanian official lauded the Palestinian position, which has demonstrated responsibility and pragmatism that were lacking in the past. He stated that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship "will remain a historical and special relationship that cannot be circumvented or ignored within the framework of any serious effort to solve the Middle East problem."

Elections, Strategy Discussed

JN2206115292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Jun 92 pp 1, 5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Excerpts] Amman—The focus of the Palestinian meetings currently taking place in Amman, which are expected to end today or tomorrow, is to establish a general strategy for future Mideast negotiations that could be adapted to whatever type of new government is formed in Israel and for further coordination with Jordan, according to well-informed Palestinian sources and PLO officials.

When the general Palestinian strategy is transformed into tactics and positions on the negotiating table, it could "adapt to what ever kind of Israeli government is going to be in power" at the time the next round of negotiations begin, says Palestinian negotiator Ghassan al-Khatib.

The Palestinian delegate would not give details of the strategy that is taking form during the Amman meetings, but he says that specifics are difficult to define at this stage, "especially that there will be changes as a result of the Israeli elections." [passage omitted]

Mr. al-Khatib describes preparations for holding Palestinian elections and the sources of authority for the Palestinian interim self-government arrangements (PISGA) as the most important issue being discussed at these meetings.

"Any government needs an authority and we believe that it should be an elected body," he maintains. "We need a source of authority and for us, it should either be the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or an elected body." [passage omitted]

This well-informed Palestinian, who wants his name withheld, says that the American letter of invitation to the peace negotiations "explicitly talks about a Palestinian interim self-government arrangment."

Four working committees were formed including members from the delegation, the steering committee and PLO officials—are entrusted with preparing general strategies for the issue of land, water and (Jewish) settlements and Palestinian human rights, the protection of civilians and implementation of the Geneva conventions and confidence-building measures.

Mr. al-Khatib says that these committees were studying the best methods "to use the negotiations to stop the settlements and to establish their illegitimacy" and a Palestinian authority on the land and environment during the interim period. [passage omitted]

Report Analyzes Reasons for Meeting

JN1906093092 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Jun 92 p 15

[Unattributed report entitled: "The Background and Dimensions of the Palestinian Leadership Meetings in Amman"]

[Text] Why is there this Palestinian presence in Amman just three days before the Israeli elections? Is it a meeting "to assess the negotiation process" and to work out strategies for future stages, or is it "an educational meeting" for the negotiators similar to those held in Cairo between members of the Palestinian delegation and ranking Egyptian politicians just before the fifth round of talks? Only this time it was convened in Amman, as Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat once promised. Or is there a U.S. "green light" that the elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be held next October? Or are there "special essential issues" that the Jordanians and Palestinians want to discuss in Amman within the next few days before the Israeli elections?

What is noteworthy is the fact that the inter-Palestinian and the Jordanian-Palestinian meetings in Amman, as well as their results, "are very important" as a ranking Palestinian official affirmed.

After being delayed for 45 minutes by the Israeli enemy authorities, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian negotiating delegation, arrived in Amman at noon yesterday along with a number of members of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral and multilateral talks. She stated that comprehensive inter-Palestinian and Jordanian-Palestinian meetings at the highest levels will be held this evening (yesterday). They are scheduled to last for a few days and will seek to evaluate the negotiation process and to coordinate efforts "to formulate a joint future strategy" regarding several "essential issues."

She added that Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is guided by the "special relationship" binding the Jordanian and the Palestinian peoples. The "confederation issue," however, is not now the subject of any official statements since such a confederation requires equal positions and the condition that the two parties involved will be on an equal footing. When I asked her whether there is a U.S. green light to prepare for the next elections in the West Bank and Gaza strip, she immediately answered: We do not wait for a green light from anyone.

Legislative Palestinian elections is a Palestinian right, and we are trying to win support for implementing this right.

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the most dynamic member of the Palestinian delegation, announced that there are two purposes for the broad Palestinian presence. The first purpose is to hold a meeting for the Palestinian delegation to prepare for the forthcoming round of talks, to explore possibilities for the next stage at an Arab, Israeli, American, and European level, and to work out strategic plans for confronting the expected results of the Israeli elections.

The second purpose is to coordinate with the Jordanian side. We believe that there is an urgent need now to deepen this coordination in light of what has already taken place in the negotiations and our expectations for the future.

He added: There is a dire need to discuss "several issues" with the Jordanian side. He denied that the meeting was held to coincide with the Israeli elections that are scheduled to take place three days from now. He said: This meeting was decided upon some time ago. We held a similar meeting in Cairo just before the fifth round. It is a meeting convened between rounds to work out future strategies.

He further said that the subjects to be discussed with the Jordanian side pertain to issues dealing with "future relations," with emphasis on the importance of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination to confront Israeli plans to sow discord among us.

He declined to comment about any U.S. green light to the Palestinians to prepare for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He stated: As everyone knows, there is an agreement that the transitional stage is to expire one year after the beginning of the negotiations, and only three [as published] months now remain before November 1992. The Israelis brought their elections to the negotiation table before we did. The objective now is to hold general elections in the occupied territories, because this is the only way to realize an orderly and peaceful transfer of authority. This is what the letter of invitation says.

Delegation member Dr. Samir 'Abdallah believes that the Palestinian meeting in Amman seeks to evaluate the negotiation process, "to learn a lesson" from it on all levels, and to work out concepts for future movement at the negotiation level. He stated that legislative elections in the occupied territories are the basic prelude to the election of a Palestinian authority that will assume power or that will prepare for assuming power.

Dr. Mustafa al-Barghuthi, a member of the Steering Committee, believes that the delegation is in Amman to make a full assessment of the bilateral and multilateral negotiations and the linkage between them, as well as to abort any attempt to draw the Palestinian and Arab delegations into normalization plans that seek to circumvent the Palestinian people's rights. He stated that talk about elections in the occupied Palestinian territories is premature.

Palestinian Delegation Head Interviewed

TA1806185892 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 18 Jun 92 pp 1, 11

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, by Khalid Abu-'Akir in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-'Akir] How do the Palestinians view the Israeli elections?
[Al-Husayni] Although the Israeli election is an internal Israeli affair, its outcome will undoubtedly affect the form and nature of the Palestinian-Israeli confrontation in the future—the nature of the negotiations and the nature of the confrontation on the ground. Consequently, the Palestinians are watching this election to determine their tactics and to meet any future Israeli tactics.

[Abu-'Akir] What do you, personally, expect the election results to be—a unity government, for example, or a government headed by Rabin?
[Al-Husayni] I do not believe the situation will be clear, as far as we are concerned, but public opinion polls indicate the results will produce a strong Labor within a strong minority and a weak Likud within a weak [right-wing] majority.

[Abu-'Akir] Some believe the Palestinians prefer Rabin. What is your comment about that?
[Al-Husayni] I do not think so. The Palestinian preference is for a program of an Israeli Government that supports the peace process. So far, it has been an electoral issue. We would like to see the practical program of the next Israeli Government. Then we will comment as to whether that government is better than its predecessor.

[Abu-'Akir] Do you expect that progress will be made in the peace process should Rabin head the next Israeli Government?
[Al-Husayni] From what we know, we at least expect there will be a possibility for negotiating over the interim period more easily and reasonably with a Labor-led government than a Likud-led government. There is no doubt, however, that the negotiations will be difficult. In the second and final phase they will be very difficult.

[Abu-'Akir] Does that mean you prefer a government headed by Rabin, as it might provide an opportunity for progress in the negotiations with the Palestinians?
[Al-Husayni] I have not said that, but I believe the negotiations will be easier when talks are held over the interim phase, because Rabin's stated position on that issue differs from the Likud's. It is reported that if Rabin wins the elections he will try to reach an agreement on the interim phase within six months.

[Abu-'Akir] How do you view the possibility of a unity government being established in Israel?

[Al-Husayni] That will depend on who leads the government and whether he is peace oriented. If that person strives for peace, such a government might be helpful.

[Abu-'Akir] Let us move on to another subject. The killing of individuals suspected of collaboration has increased recently, so much so that it has become the subject of discussion in the Palestinian street. What is your position on this issue?

[Al-Husayni] There has been a decision by the Palestinian leadership by which everyone must abide. It is inconceivable that decisions governing the lives of human beings be in the hands of local forces. Normally in every country there are different courts that issue their verdicts and a higher authority is allowed to review those verdicts. Consequently, a magistrate's court, for example, cannot issue a death sentence. I believe that the leadership's decision must be respected and that no act of such importance should be carried out without referring to the highest authorities and without relying on their decision. Killing a human being is not something simple. We know that there are culprits and there are persons who affect the lives of others. They should be punished, but everyone must know that there is a specific party who determines the punishment.

[Abu-'Akir] How do you explain the disregard for the leadership's decision and the increasing number of murders? Does that mean that the leadership cannot control the situation in the Palestinian street?

[Al-Husayni] No. There are some scattered small groups here and there. Although they link themselves ideologically to certain factions, they actually act independently. They adopt decisions as if they are the highest decision-making authority. This creates the ambiguity and confusion that has led to such a large number of killings.

[Abu-'Akir] What should be done to stop this phenomenon?

[Al-Husayni] We are doing many things, but the forging of a popular Palestinian public opinion on this issue will, I believe, contribute to ending this phenomenon.

[Abu-'Akir] How can public opinion be mobilized to confront this phenomenon when popular conferences have failed to achieve that aim?

[Al-Husayni] Through conferences that are taking place now, the signing of the covenant of honor, popular gatherings, the media, and what I am telling you now.

[Abu-'Akir] There was talk recently about holding a popular conference in which a national covenant would be proclaimed that would include a ban on killings. What has been done in that regard?

[Al-Husayni] We are still working on preparing the covenant and holding the popular conference.

[Abu-'Akir] Why has the announcement on the covenant and the conference been delayed?

[Al-Husayni] It has not been delayed. The date set for this is still valid, but we will not announce it before all preparations are completed.

[Abu-'Akir] Are you sure that all factions will abide by this covenant when it is proclaimed?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. I believe that any faction signing this covenant will abide by it. Some violations might occur, but everyone will endeavor to control them.

Editorial Views Shamir-Rabin Television Debate

TA1906063792 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Jun 92 p 9

[Editorial: "The Shamir-Rabin Debate"]

[Text] In a debate aired by Israel Television two nights ago, Likud leader Yitzhaq Shamir and Labor leader Yitzhaq Rabin affirmed their parties' traditional positions on security, policy, and peace with the Arabs. Shamir rejected any settlement with the Arabs based on an Israeli withdrawal from any part of the occupied Arab lands. He regards these lands as an integral part of "the Land of Israel." As far as Shamir is concerned, the Gaza Strip is "part of the Land of Israel and is no different from other areas, such as Nabulus and Hebron." The same applies to the Syrian Golan Heights. On the other hand, Yitzhaq Rabin expressed his readiness to make "territorial compromises" for the sake of achieving peace with the Arabs and the Palestinians, provided that these compromises do not include "the Greater Jerusalem" area, "the confrontation lines," and existing Israeli settlements not included in Rabin's definition of "political settlements."

As far as we Palestinians are concerned, the statements by the Labor and Likud leaders were no surprise, because they contained nothing new, whether with regard to an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands, recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate national and political rights, or with regard to providing a real opportunity to achieve progress in the political negotiations taking place within the framework of the settlement process sponsored by the United States and Russia. Shamir's remarks simply shows he means to "keep the land and have peace." This is a flagrant contravention of the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 on which the peace process between the Arabs and Israel is based, and is something that no Arab party, regardless of its moderation and flexibility, can accept.

As for Yitzhaq Rabin, he wants to keep "most of the land" in return for granting the Palestinians "self-administration" that would leave "security affairs" in the Arab territories in Israel's hands. In fact, there is no significant difference between the positions of the "two Yitzhaqs," if we exclude the Arab lands which Labor leader Yitzhaq Rabin wants to keep—lands that Israel calls "Greater Jerusalem" and whose boundaries extend from Bethlehem in the south to Ramallah in the north and the Red Sea in the east, in addition to the Jordan

Valley region and the lands that have been confiscated and on which Israeli settlements have been established. We cannot, therefore, but look with ridicule at Rabin's position, which cannot serve as a basis for achieving a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees all the parties in the conflict their national and political rights.

If the conditions of the political game compel us to examine the political differences between Yitzhaq Rabin and Yitzhaq Shamir, as well as the differences between the Israeli political parties, and try to exploit them to the benefit of our national cause, we must not forget that our own power and our ability to activate and utilize it soundly are factors that will determine the weakness or strength of our negotiating position with Israel in the coming phase, whether it be under Labor or Likud leadership.

International Protection for Territories Urged

PM1906135392 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 17 Jun 92 p 5

[Salah al-Diri report: " 'Abd-al-Shafi: Israeli Practices In Strip Are a Challenge Not Only To Us But To the World and the United States As Well"]

[Text] Jerusalem—AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, urged world states, the United States in particular, to work to provide international protection for the occupied territories' inhabitants.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shai's request came as a result of the difficult conditions experienced by around a million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip under the severe military and economic siege imposed on the Strip by the Israeli authorities since 24 May in the wake of the murder of an Israeli girl by a resident from the al-Nusayrat camp in the Gaza Strip.

'Abd-al-Shafi said in an interview with AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that the collective punishment measures taken by Israel against the Strip's inhabitants have had a severe economic impact on citizens, especially on the thousands who used to work in Israel. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi described present conditions in the Gaza Strip as extremely critical.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi protested against the collective punishment method with which Israel responds to isolated, unplanned actions carried out by young men from the Strip inside the 1948 area.

He said: "We urge the world and the United States, which talks about international legitimacy, to take responsible positions with respect to our people's sufferings." 'Abd-al-Shafi expressed his discontent at the world's indifference and spectator attitude toward what Israel is doing in the occupied territories. In fact it deals leniently with Israel in connection with anything that it does to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

On the effect of the harsh Israeli measures and practices used against citizens in the occupied territories on the peace process, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that "these practices are destroying the peace process and placing us as a negotiating team in a critical position."

The head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations added that Israeli practices are a challenge not only to the Palestinians but to the world, the United States in particular, as well. This is because the latter is the one supervising and sponsoring the peace process.

He said that he did not rule out the possibility that through its punitive practices in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, which have escalated sharply since the peace conference was convened, Israel might be aiming to make the Palestinians give up all hope in the negotiations and force them to boycott them so that Israel can rid itself of the burden of these negotiations, which do not seem to be to its liking.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi admitted that Israeli practices have led to a decline in support for the negotiations among ordinary Palestinians. 'Abd-al-Shafi added: "We must follow what is happening carefully, and our people and their leadership must know how to confront this Israeli policy." He stated that "nothing will force us to abandon our basic rights at the negotiating table."

About the statements or positions that world media organizations are trying to attribute to some members of the negotiating Palestinian delegation—something that has been exploited by some Israeli or Palestinian quarters to incite people against members of the delegation—Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that our people and the Palestinian masses are required to continue to view matters objectively, to completely keep away from personal emotions and unjustified accusations, and not to incline to interpret positions without the existence of logical, studied scientific proposals.

He added: "What is required is to pay attention to whatever brings the Palestinians closer to one another and achieves a Palestinian unity that is active in the field."

Algeria

Boudiaf Holds News Conference on Patriotic Rally

LD2206211392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, held a news conference this afternoon at the presidency headquarters in the presence of a large number of journalists. The news conference dealt with the Patriotic Rally, means of achieving it, and the future prospects it opens up for the country. Lotfi Chriet reports:

[Chriet] Mohamed Boudiaf focused on the political and organizational prospects of the Patriotic Rally. The rally is a framework for general mobilization of those who want tangible change, dignity, respect, and social justice. Mr. Boudiaf stressed that the Patriotic Rally is open to all associations, vocational and social organizations, all those who want to join it individually, and all parties which consent to the premise of the Patriotic Rally. Other parties which do not wish to join have full freedom to continue their activities within pluralism.

In Mr. Boudiaf's opinion, the Patriotic Rally is not a political party and does not wish to revert back to the one-party era. It is a broad movement for change through which the break with the methods of the old era can be effected and through which complete change can occur. [passage omitted]

FIS Trial 'Open;' Foreign Media Barred

LD2306083692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Excerpt] The trial of the leaders of Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders who have been detained in Blida prison since the events of June last year will start on 27 June. The charges against the leaders are very heavy according to lawyers. However, what is important is that the trial will be open and will be attended by neutral personalities, both national and international. Mohcen Slimani has gathered a few facts about the the case:

[Slimani] With the approaching date of the trial of the FIS leaders [word indistinct], attention is focused on the military court in Blida, where it seems that all formalities have been completed after the completion of investigations in the case, according to sources close to the general prosecution.

The trial will be public and will be attended by the national press. There will be no foreign media allowed on the basis that the case is an internal issue which concerns the Algerians, according to the organizers of the trial. International organizations will also be absent for the same reason.

About 100 witnesses and 19 lawyers representing the FIS leaders' defense—after the exclusion of four lawyers by the seven defendents—in addition to the court's bench and the prosecution, will constitute the main elements of the trial. The trial is expected to last for three weeks.

Regarding the circumstances surrounding the investigations into the charges made against the seven leaders, led by Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, statements made by the defense lawyers on the one hand, and by the prosecution on the other, have led to the emergence of a number of contradictions, which the defense still considers as [words indistinct], and continues to insist on the appearance of the current head of government, Sid Ahmed Ghozali, as a witness in the case on the grounds that he met Abassi Madani on 7 June [1991] and reached an agreement with him—according to the defense—on the suspension of the unlimited political strike which had been announced by the FIS. This point will undoubtedly be raised again at the trial, and it is expected that the defense will ask for Ghozali's appearance as a witness.

I have also learned that the defense will ask for the appearance of Abdelhamid Mehri and Abdelaziz Belkhadem, and two military men with the rank of major general—Abbas [last name indistinct] and Maj. Gen. Ammari.

The prosecution has repeatedly stressed [word indistinct] the military court to start the trial, and it could not see the need to invite Sid Ahmed Ghozali. [passage omitted]

Journalists, EL-CHOUROUK Director Arrested

LD2106224992 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] According to journalists at EL-CHOUROUK newspaper, the director of the corporation, Ali Foudeil, and a number of journalists, including Saad Bouakba, were arrested at 1500 this evening. According to the same source, the reasons for the arrests remain unknown.

Release of Detainees From Reggane Continues

LD2306042692 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] It was learned from provincial sources that the evacuation of the Reggane security center, south of Adrar, continues normally. Forty people were released today, thus bringing the total number of released since the center was opened to an estimated two-thirds of the total number of detained.

Egypt

IBRD Refuses To Release Aid, Demands Action

NC1906195492 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Jun 92 p 1

[Report by Jamal Shawqi]

[Text] The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD] has rejected Egypt's request for loans totaling $800 million, saying that Egypt needs to take strong and effective measures to eliminate extra workers in public companies and executive bodies. The experts said Egypt needs to change and develop the entire labor force. They demanded that steps to liberalize the public sector and place its shares and bonds on the stock exchange be taken quickly, rejecting the government's excuse that it needs to finalize draft laws before taking these steps.

The government had asked the IBRD to approve the withdrawal of loans and aid to help move the economic reform program. For the past two years, the IBRD experts have refused to release the loans before actual changes in the administration of the public sector are implemented, stock exchanges are revitalized, and the environmental protection program is executed.

Minister Denies Israel Demanding Nile Water

NC1906195392 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
17 Jun 92 p 1

[Report by Jamal Yunus and 'Ali Khamis]

[Text] Engineer 'Isam Radi, Egyptian minister of works and water resources, has said that the Nile River waters are not included in the current negotiations over Middle East water, denying reports that Israel is demanding a percentage of these waters. Radi said that Egypt will never allow Nile River waters to be extended outside Egyptian territory. In a seminar held by People's Assembly Economic Committee, the minister said that 75 percent of Egypt's total irrigation needs are met.

Musa: Israeli Threats Part of Election Campaign

NC2006064092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT
19 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak will attend the OAU summit in Dakar between 29 June and 1 July, according to a statement by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa reported in the 20 June AL-AHRAM. He said that he will leave Cairo on 21 June to attend the OAU foreign ministers meeting in his capacity as chairman of the previous session. [passage omitted]

Musa said in his statement that he met with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the sidelines of the extraordinary Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers meeting in Istanbul last Wednesday. He added that the meeting was held within the framework of coordination on Bosnia-Hercegovina, the main issue discussed at the meeting, and [word indistinct] bilateral relations.

Musa said that the meeting of the Damascus Declaration countries in Doha on 9 and 10 September will focus on the implementation of the declaration, with emphasis on its economic and political aspects. The declaration was signed by Egypt, Syria, and the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Regarding Israel's threat that it might take military action against countries with nuclear weapons, the foreign minister said: These threats are essentially part of the election campaign; I have already called on Israel to stop dealing with such highly sensitive issues within the context of the election. He added that the only way to avoid an increased danger from nuclear weapons in the Middle East is to set up a nuclear-free zone and officially and legally agree to international inspection of nuclear facilities. He said: Otherwise, nuclear proliferation in the region cannot be controlled. [passage omitted]

'Official Source' on Relations With Iran

NC1906105592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT
19 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jun (MENA)—An Egyptian official source has said that Egypt's relations with Iran are those with a fraternal Islamic state and neighbor of the Arab region, whose legitimate interests in this region we respect in light of its respect for our interests and the intimacy of Arab relations.

In a statement to Cairo's AL-AHRAM today, the source expressed his hope that normal relations between Egypt and Iran will develop and be enhanced.

Commenting on reports of upgrading diplomatic representation between the two countries to the ambassadorial level, the Egyptian official source noted that the current vision of the relations is realistic and optimistic. He said that some media predictions of a sudden shift in relations are somewhat hasty.

Yemeni Officials Promise Release of 70 Fishermen

NC2006143192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT
20 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Sanaa, 20 Jun (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador to Yemen Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Sham'ah has said that the Egyptian Embassy here is currently making intense efforts to bring about the release of 70 Egyptian fishermen detained 10 days ago by Yemeni authorities. The fishermen were fishing too close to the Yemeni coast, north of al-Hudaydah.

Sham'ah said that Yemeni authorities have responded positively to a request to release the Egyptians without trial, adding that Yemeni officials have promised to release the fishermen as soon as possible.

He said that 64 of the fishermen are being held at al-Hudaydah prison and the others are staying on the three fishing boats. All are well and have received good treatment from the Yemeni authorities. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Applauds U.S.-Russian Nuclear Pact

NC1906135392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] A Foreign Ministry official spokesman has said that Egypt welcomes the agreement between the United States and the Russian Federation to reduce their stockpiles of nuclear warheads.

The Foreign Ministry is studying this important plan in the context of global aspirations to be free of the dangers of nuclear weapons. The Foreign Ministry is focusing on regional initiatives in this respect, including Egypt's proposal to establish a nuclear- free zone in the Middle East. This would propel the effort to establish peace and security in the Middle East.

Lebanese Speaker Arrives on 4-Day Official Visit

NC2006153492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1233 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni arrived in Cairo this afternoon on an official four-day visit to Egypt in response to an invitation by People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur.

In an arrival statement, al-Husayni said he is happy to be visiting Egypt and the visit comes at a fateful time in Lebanon's history, adding that the nation has made good progress toward establishing peace since the Casablanca Arab summit conference.

Al-Husayni praised President Mubarak's role at the Casablanca summit, which had a great effect on mobilizing support for al-Husayni's views on a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

Al-Husayni said that Lebanon is currently making good progress toward national reconciliation and the restoration of the sovereignty of Lebanese institutions. The time has come, he said, to talk with Egyptian officials because of Egypt's prominent role in the Lebanese salvation process, particularly in view of its role calling for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel to withdraw from Lebanese territory to internationally-recognized borders so Lebanon can regain its role within the Arab family.

Regarding the situation in southern Lebanon, al-Husayni said that the solution to this crisis lies in the implementation of Resolution 425 and the reactivation of the 1949 truce agreement, which provides for security on both sides of the border until a solution to the Middle East crisis is reached.

Al-Husayni said that the reason it has been difficult to implement the al-Ta'if agreement is because of Israel's procrastination in implementing its international commitments and the UN resolutions. He also blamed the differences in international legitimacy's view of the UN resolutions. In some cases, including Kuwait, Iraq, Yugoslavia, and Libya, UN resolutions are viewed with considerable seriousness; however, in other cases, such as in southern Lebanon's case, resolutions are not taken as seriously. Al-Husayni said that Lebanon believes the Arab League can play an important role on the matter, mentioning in particular the Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's efforts to speed up the restoration of Arab solidarity.

Regarding Syrian-Lebanese relations, Al-Husayni said that there are three bases for this cooperation to solve the Lebanese crisis. The first is the achievement of internal reconciliation on the basis of constitutional and political reforms, and we have made good progress on this matter. The second is the establishment of Syrian-Lebanese relations on a firm and clear basis that will enable Lebanon to benefit from the extensive resources of Lebanon's big brother. Syria has already done a lot to help Lebanon. The third is the implementation of the UN resolutions in southern Lebanon to regain Lebanese territory and extend the state's legitimate authority. The real essence of the crisis is the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon.

Before departing Beirut today, al-Husayni said that his visit to Egypt comes within the framework of efforts by the two countries to strengthen relations. He said that he will also hold talks with Arab League officials. He affirmed that the restoration of solidarity is the best way the Arab nation can protect itself.

Spanish Official Praises Peace Efforts, Departs

NC1906185392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Spanish Deputy Foreign Minister (George Acallar) has praised Egypt's and President Husni Mubarak's efforts to resolve Arab problems and to move the Middle East peace negotiations toward a solution. In a statement today prior to his departure, the Spanish official said his visit to Egypt falls within the framework of the distinguished bilateral relations the two countries enjoy and to prepare for the Higher Joint Egyptian-Spanish Technical Committee meetings, which will be held in Madrid in October at the minister level. The visit was also designed to exchange views on regional issues of common concern.

Need To Continue Peace Negotiations Stressed

NC1906113792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Commentary by Muhammad Sharaf: "The Middle East Peace Process, Israeli Electoral Campaign"]

[Text] The principal issue which concerns Arab and Middle Eastern states and the world in general about the forthcoming public elections in Israel is regional peace and stability. The competing parties in these elections, the Likud bloc and the opposition Labor party, have revealed their positions, laying their cards on the table only days before Tuesday's elections. These positions became clear in last Tuesday's televised debate between Yitzhaq Shamir, prime minister and Likud leader, and Labor Leader Yitzhaq Rabin.

Before we touch on these stands and how they reflect on the regional peace process, we must note an established fact: The electoral positions, programs, and promises, without the reality required to put decisions to the test, should not be taken for granted. These positions, programs, and promises might not be fulfilled, but they do reveal candidates' general orientation and principles.

In this light, we can say that the Likud and Labor positions on peace with the Palestinians and their neighbors, the Arab states, are based on the principle of no withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders. The parties' views differ slightly. The Likud says it will not relinquish a single portion of the occupied territories and that its policy is based on expanding settlements throughout these territories. Labor, meanwhile, says its program will be based on a limited withdrawal from some occupied areas and on supporting the establishment of settlements in certain areas, like Jerusalem, the Jordan river valley, and the Syrian Golan Heights. Both parties support an autonomy agreement with Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a transitional period before reaching an agreement on the final status of the occupied territories.

What counts is both parties' concept of autonomy. Until now, and as presented by Israel's negotiators at Washington's bilateral talks, Likud's concept of autonomy blesses an indefinite Israeli occupation. Labor has not revealed its concept of autonomy. The international political and legal concept of autonomy is well known, based primarily on the idea of leaving the door open to full independence, in line with international rules and provisions. The two major Israeli parties reject a Palestinian state, although Labor Leader Yitzhaq Rabin had earlier insinuated that an eventual Palestinian state is a possibility.

In the final stages of the Israeli electoral campaign, Likud and Labor have not ruled out a coalition government after the elections—should the result make this inevitable. That the two parties agree on this possibility reveals something everyone knows about Israel: There are no essential differences in the parties' strategies on peace with Arab states or on Israel's political, economic, and military position in the Middle East.

No one should expect the election result to change Israel's basic position at the peace negotiations. We mean that Israel cannot spontaneously initiate any change in this stand. The decisive factor remains—Palestinians and Arab states insist on restoring their lands and their full legal rights. They also insist on the world's willpower and credibility, implementing international legitimacy.

Middle East peace is a pressing necessity for protecting everybody's vital interests therefore direct peace negotiations must continue until everyone can achieve the best possible results.

Column Criticizes al-Qadhdhafi, Regime

NC1906163092 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
14 Jun 92 p 14

[From the "A Thought" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] They [not further identified] are accusing us of being the cause of the tragedies and setbacks that have afflicted al-Qadhdhafi.

We are not the ones who asked al-Qadhdhafi to shoot down planes. We are not the ones who asked al-Qadhdhafi to finance the revolutionary army in Britain [as published] to undermine the British Government and plant bombs in the streets of London, killing innocent civilians. We are not the ones who urged al-Qadhdhafi to shelter terrorist groups and issue them orders and instructions. We are not the ones who encouraged al-Qadhdhafi to stage coups and plots in every country in the world.

Al-Qadhdhafi alone has done all this, the results of which have roused the anger of the world and incited all countries against him.

We are not the ones who incited al-Qadhdhafi to quarrel with every country, including the United States, England, and France. Even the former Soviet Union had its share of disputes and crises.

Al-Qadhdhafi thought that he had become the most powerful man in the world when he called Libya the Great Libya, just like a child who calls himself "Tarzan" and invites the boxing champions to a fight or like a mouse who declares war on a lion and tries to rule the forest or at least the zoo.

Those who think they can achieve victory by using words or claim to be powerful simply because they have a chest full of medals will sooner or later discover that it will not be easy to deceive and mislead the people for longer; that drums and trumpets do not replace bombs and guns, and that paper victories do not deceive or mislead anyone. You can fool all of the people some of the time; and some of the people all of the time; but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time. You might be able to deceive the people with guns that have no bullets and with planes that have no bombs. But the masses will know that if a real war breaks out you are leading an army of words. States grow through action, not words; through construction and building, not demolition and destruction; through truthfulness, not lies; and through real friendships, not imaginary conflicts.

Illusions do not build empires.

Libyan Anti-Egypt Rhetoric Questioned

NC1906170092 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Jun 92 p 14

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab: "The Stage Scenery Changes, But Too Late. Members of the Libyan Revolutionary Committees and the Acclamation of Meaningless Slogans"]

[Text] Suppose that the attacks by members of the Libyan revolutionary committees on Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi are real and not just theatrics. If this were true, they would be harming themselves even though the time has passed for making such stands.

They are decrying "the colonel's" interest in Arab unity and criticizing his policy, saying: "Excuse us, Mu'ammar, if we say that the Chinese and the Indians, not the Arabs, are our brothers. The Arab countries with whom you have sought to achieve unity have turned their backs on Libya, abandoned it, and left it to confront the UN sanctions alone."

It is clear that the committees are talking about and slandering Egypt.

Let the members of the Libyan revolutionary committees fully understand that Egypt has always been opposed to unity from "above" because its respect for the will of the people is limitless. Egypt has repeatedly told al-Qadhdhafi, his deputy Jallud, and members of his revolutionary committees that it welcomes unity that begins with the masses, not the other way around.

Al-Qadhdhafi alone does not deserve all the blame on this issue; the members of these same committees who clapped and cheered al-Qadhdhafi's calls should share it as well. They should not criticize the policies that they approved because it makes them look like mere "rubber stamps" who go along with the will of their leader unquestioningly, making their actions and decisions meaningless.

The attempt to indict Egypt for abandoning Libya when it implemented the UN resolutions is "political shallowness" in its worst form. The Libyan revolutionary committees are proving that they are looking at issues from a narrow perspective and that they have nothing whatsoever to do with the interests of the people.

Brother "revolutionaries", if we may call you that: Egypt, in view of its position and international status, is bound to respect and implement the UN resolutions because it understands how to respect treaties and charters. No country can live in isolation; interests are linked and intertwined.

At the same time, Egypt's implementation of the international community's resolutions can be a great benefit to Libya for the simple reason that it allows us to make contacts, hold meetings, and exchange views with all nations. If we stand aside and sit in a corner, the problems will accumulate for the entire Libyan people. This is something we will not allow to happen to a fraternal and neighborly people.

Why do the members of the revolutionary committees stray from the truth and not accept reality?

Don't they realize that without Egypt's positive and effective intervention their country would have been undoubtedly subject to an military action?

Why are they not honest with themselves? Why do they not hoist the banners of gratitude and thanks to Egypt, without whom the United Nations would have slapped sea and land sanctions in addition to the air sanctions?

Had this happened, the revolutionary committees would not have had enough breathing space for talking or making futile and useless demonstrations.

The revolutionary committees that are calling for rebellion against al-Qadhdhafi are the same ones that loved the slogans: Trees do not die standing up", "Play acting is deception", "The Great [Jamahiriyah] is unionist", and others. The dimensions and consequences of this sudden turnaround will clearly appear in the General People's Congress, which Col. al-Qadhdhafi opens today.

We are waiting.

Minister Addresses Assembly on Security Incidents

NC2006145792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] The People's Assembly resumed its session this morning under Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur. At the beginning of the meeting, Interior Minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa delivered a statement reviewing recent isolated security incidents, including the assassination of Dr. Faraj Fudah and the incident in al-Nuzhah, in Heliopolis. Musa said that wisdom is essential in every action, particularly in police work. Wisdom, he added, does not mean weakness or negligence in dealing with a crisis when and where it happens. The will of the police, he said, is the will of the law. The stronger and more respected the police are, he concluded, the more secure and stable our system will be.

Reportage on Fundamentalist Groups, Violence

Security Searches for Extremists

NC2306092292 Paris AFP in English 0853 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, June 23 (AFP) - Egyptian security forces have cut off access to the southern province of Asyut in search of Islamic extremists who attacked Coptic Christians, the police and official press said Tuesday [23 June].

A police source said 4,000 anti-riot troops had been deployed in the Upper Egypt province. Backed by armoured vehicles, security forces have taken up positions around government buildings, AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper said. They set up checkpoints in villages and dozens of Muslim fundamentalists have been rounded up.

Five people were killed, including two Copts, and several wounded in attacks by Islamic extremists since last Friday centred on the villages of Dayrut and Sanabu. Around 15 homes and shops belonging to Copts were set ablaze. Security forces on Monday imposed a curfew on several parts of Dayrut.

In the last round of sectarian strife in Asyut Province, 12 Copts were among 15 people killed in April.

Police Kill 'Extremists'

NC2006185792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Security sources in Asyut, Upper Egypt, report that two extremists were shot dead today and two were children wounded during a clash between Islamic fundamentalists and police.

Suez Group on 'Taking Up Arms'

NC1906155592 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 17 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] The Suez branch of the Islamic Group has called for taking up arms in response to violence against Muslims in nine countries, including Egypt, Syria, and Algeria.

In a leaflet headlined "Pain and Hope," circulated during 'Id al-Adha, the group said: "Come with us and carry a rifle." The leaflet added that the world knows no language but force, yet we fear the mere mention of jihad and the Awqaf Ministry's shaykhs preach that religion means tolerance.

In an implicit reference to the Muslim Brotherhood, the leaflet said: Groups of cowards are still begging from the rulers and the interior minister. It added: Give us shariah and allow us to form a party or an association, and we will suppress extremism and sectarian sedition.

Extremists Arrested Over Sedition

NC1906143192 Cairo MENA in English 1325 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Damietta, June 18 (MENA)—Security organs today arrested a group of extremists here possessing circulars calling for sedition among citizens and assassinating a number of public figures.

Security authorities obtained information that a number of hardline elements held various meetings urging for carrying out terrorist acts and inducing panic among citizens.

The arrested group was referred to the Supreme State Security Prosecution for investigations.

Libya

General People's Congress Views Lockerbie Issue

Al-Bishari Addresses Session

LD2206145992 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1047 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Speech by Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, to the General People's Congress session in Surt—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Dear brother and sisters: In implementing the decisions of the Basic People's Congresses in the foreign policy sphere, the serious and effective work continued on various levels. The goal has always been to protect Libyan Arab rights and interests and to consolidate and stimulate regional and international organizations in which the Jamahiriyah enjoys membership, particularly the Arab League, the OAU, the United Nations, the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization], and the Nonaligned Movement.

The reports and memoranda submitted to the Basic People's Congresses this year explained the dimensions of Arab Libya's foreign work, its aims, and its results.

I do not think I need to remind you of the contents of these reports, but I will mention an important issue that greatly occupied our attention this year: the Western threats against the Jamahiriyah, or what has come to be know as the Lockerbie issue.

I will also try to provide clarifications about the questions put forward to the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation by the Basic People's Congresses, the Secretariat of the GPC [General People's Congress], and the General People's Committee for People's Supervision and Follow-Up.

Dear brothers and sisters, the conflict that has come to be known as the Lockerbie issue was one of the major axes of the Committee's work this year after it became clear from the very beginning that the outbreak of the crisis, at this time and in this manner, demonstrated intentions that go beyond the jurisdictional specialization on trying suspects, to something much larger.

The Jamahiriyah therefore moved quickly and effectively to contain the crisis and to find a peaceful, political, just, and honorable settlement to it within the framework of the UN Charter and the principles of international law. [passage omitted]

Libya also affirmed its acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 731 in a letter delivered to the UN secretary general's envoy that contained practical, peaceful suggestions to resolve the conflict.

Brothers and sisters, the intensive and continuous political work at the various levels to gain support for the just Libyan position achieved important results that appeared in the form of policies and resolutions expressing support and understanding. What confirms the soundness of our position is the fact that in our widespread contacts, we have not found one state that says that Libya is the wrongdoer or the aggressor; the prevailing conviction in most states is that the Jamahiriyah is a victim in this affair.

The predominant logic that rules international relations at this stage does not (?always) express the power of the law as much as it expresses the law of power. Despite this, it can be said that the Jamahiriyah—a small country with limited resources compared to the three states that are in dispute with us collectively and individually—was able to handle the conflict with wisdom and efficiency and gained the appreciation and respect of states. [passage omitted]

In this connection, we note with much regret that the fraternal states that have been expressing political solidarity with the Jamahiriyah since the beginning of the crisis decalred their commitment to implementing the unjust Security Council Resolution 748, which created a political, legal, cultural, and ethical crises inside the Arab world and created a buffer state between the eastern part of the Arab world and the Maghreb. These measures, which the Arabs openly described as being unjust and unjustified, should not be honored. Despite the fact that the Arab position toward the successive stages of the dispute deserves a pause to learn whatever lessons there are, we should not overlook for even one moment that we are Arab Libyans, Muslim Arabs, and African Muslims who have lived and coexisted with the civilization of the Mediterranean and that all these links form shields—even if they are weak shields—which we should not break; otherwise, we will become fish out of water, which is excatly what the enemies want. Let me say that the enemies have come out to catch the big and beautiful white fish. We are aware enough, and we should not give them the opportunity to do so.

Nevertheless, and despite the bitterness we feel, we should recall what some of our brothers did collectively and individually—taking initiatives to find a peaceful solution—namely, Arab states and the Arab League and a seven-man committee. This calls for our gratitude to every sincere person who made an effort, led by the Arab Republic of Egypt and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and the Arab League secretary general [applause].

During the next stage, endeavors will be continued to break down the blockade, to revoke Resolution 748/92, and to find a peaceful settlement of the dispute in accordance with Chapter 6 of the UN Charter and on the basis of the principles of international law. Attempts will be continued to implement the resolutions of the Basic People's Congress that reaffirm normalizing relations with all states of the world, including the three Western states, led by the United States, which we call upon to conduct a dialogue and to respond to this logical invitation and open a new page of equal relations with the Jamahiriyah within the framework of international law and in a manner that serves the mutual interests of the Libyan and American peoples under the aegis of mututal respect and nonintervention. We do the same with the United Kingdom. We call on the French Government to do the same. [passage omitted]

Brothers, we received a letter from the UN secretary general concerning the dispute between us and the three states; we referred this letter to the Basic People's Congresses as decisionmaking rests with them. They decided as they deemed fit. The decisions of the Basic People's Congresses are before this Congress—the General People's Congress—to be drafted; therefore, these decisions are the property of this esteemed congress. We are convinced that if the states in dispute with us show good will, it will be possible to find a just settlement to the dispute. There is no problem without a solution. Peoples may differ and fight against each other, but ultimately they will sit at the negotiating table to normalize relations and end the causes of wars, crises, and disputes, as was the case between the United States and Japan and Germany and France, etc. There are many examples of this in history. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, the political language that we adopted in addressing the world—including our open condemnation of terrorism as we were the victim of terrorism and our full readiness to resist it in all its forms and not to deal with groups that are suspected of being terrorists in the world—a matter that was stressed by the resolutions of your Congress, has enjoyed the full appreciation of all international gatherings.

I come now to the questions from the Basic People's Congresses. The first of these questions is from the People's Congress in the municipality of Sabha regarding the failure to confront the Zionist penetration in the African continent. I would like to stress in this regard that the Israelis do not move with their own means but rely, in implementing their plans, on international support. Confronting their penetration in the African continent is in fact a collective Arab responsibility which requires joint Arab action to which all the countries should contribute.

I say that about 17 Arab countries practically recognized the Israelis and negotiated with them in the multilateral negotiations in the world capitals and at the level of their foreign ministers. Moreover, the Palestinians inside the territories and the Palestinians abroad negotiated directly with the Israelis and recognized them. This is in addition to the poor level of Arab-African cooperation that has made the Africans keep at arms length from the Arab causes. Furthermore, the Israelis offer themselves as the African states' intermediaries with the international banks. This has encouraged these states to restore their relations with Israel.

The Jamahiriyah made efforts to confront the Zionist penetration in the African continent. It made these efforts on its own. But confronting the Zionist penetration, which does not rely only on its own means, requires joint action in which all Arab countries participate to be able to approach over 50 African countries to get them to reconsider their policies toward the Israelis. It is no secret that this will require material and financial means and human efforts that exceed the means of an individual Arab country. The current Arab reality does not allow this.

The second question was from the People's Congress in the municipality of Tripoli regarding the lack of accuracy in following up the executive measures and agreements signed with other states. The role of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation regarding the agreements signed between the Great Jamahiyah and the sisterly and friendly states involves preparing the draft agreements and participating in the negotiations on these agreements with the other party, alongside the other competent quarters in the Jamahiriyah. The next step is preparing the final draft of these agreements and taking the relevant measures by ratifying these agreements and informing the parties concerned when the agreements come into force. The role of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation also involves following up the implementation of the agreements from a political point of level since the bureau is in charge of international cooperation.

There is another question from the People's Congress in the municipality of Tripoli regarding the bureau's failure to follow up and care for Libyans who are sent abroad for their studies or for medical treatment. [passage omitted]

Another question from the People's Congress in the municipality of Tripoli concerns the Foreign Liaison Bureau's failure to appoint people capable of working in the brotherhood bureaus [embassies in Arab countries] and people's bureas abroad and on its weak control over the people's bureaus. I would like to say that the people the Foreign Liaison Bureau has been appointing to work in the people's bureaus have always been selected from among those who meet the conditions required for work abroad in accordance with the criteria defined by the Basic People's Congresses and all relevant resolutions. Training programs and courses were organized for those sent to work abroad. Last year the Bureau appointed 21 graduates, 5 of whom were women, and they were sent on a one-year course at the Institute for International Relations to prepare them for work in the people's bureaus abroad. The people's bureaus abroad were also reinforced by an extra 195 staff, 5 of whom are women.

Another question from the People's Congress in the municipality of Tripoli claims that the Foreign Liaison Bureau does not benefit to the maximum from the congresss held in the country and abroad. I would like to say that the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation takes an effective part in regional and international conferences. This is reflected in the statements and resolutions of support that the Libyan Arab delegations participating in those conferences receive. The latest of these were the resolutions of support passed by the Arab League Ministerial Council session devoted to what is known as the Lockerbie affair, the Islamic Conference Organization, the Organization of African Unity, and the Nonaligned Movement. Despite this, the swift moves and the wide-ranging steps taken by the leadership of the revolution in all foreign spheres sometimes make us incapable of keeping up, no matter how much effort we put into it. [passage omitted]

Regarding the question about the delay in following up the fund for supporting the Palestinian revolution, as a matter of fact, the current Arab situation—I mean today—does not permit that. [passage omitted]

Regarding the weakness in following up Libyan prisoners abroad, especially in Britain, there are a number of brothers who are imprisoned in Britain. I have no numbers before me. We look after them—I mean the office of the Libyan interest section looks after them. Their wages are paid regularly. They are in constant telephone contact with their families. Their families visited them. All this is documented in our department, not to mention how much was spent on them. [passage omitted]

Secretaries Debate Issue

LD2206204192 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1628 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Proceedings of the General People's Congress, including responses to delegates' questions regarding the Lockerbie case by Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, and Ibrahim Muhammad Bakkar, secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice, in Surt—live]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified secretary of the People's Congress of the town of Jabal al Akhdar] In the name of God the Merciful and Compassionate: In reality, the review provided by the answers of the brother secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation and his presentation of what was submitted to the BPCs [Basic People's Congresses]—particularly in the article on the threats to which the Great Jamahiriyah was subjected by the United States, Britain, and France in the affair known as the Lockerbie case—was limited and uncomprehensive. [Words indistinct] we consider this case as vital and affecting the fate of this nation and our aspirations. There is in it, frankly, a direct threat as far as we, our lives, and this country are concerned.

I believe that there are several ways to deal with it, and these are political and legal. In fact, considering that we in the Great Jamahiriyah, a small and peaceful country that is antiterrorist—and we in reality never thought about this issue of supporting terrorism—and all Libyans, when they discussed this question, they did it with a kind of force. There is even a sort of insult to the Libyan Arab people, their history, and struggle. This people calls for building civilizations and societies in which there is no oppression and societies that call for freedom, progress, and peace.

How in reality [word indistinct] because we—all the Libyans in fact—consider it a defamation against us, and this defamation in reality cannot be accepted in any form. The secretary for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison touched upon it in a light way in which there was no satisfying and sufficient answer to this issue, and it was not treated as it deserves.

We—all the BPC's, frankly—must know what are the political and legal efforts that have been made on this issue. [passage omitted]

I would like for the brother secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison to give us all the facts so we can make our decision on this issue, and at the same time, the brother secretary of the People's Committee for Justice must tell us about all the legal measures that were adopted in this case. [passage omitted]

[Al-Bishari] Thank you, brother secretary of the GPC. The question that has been raised is an extremely important one. I will try to reply to it in a manner that will give a historical background to this issue. This issue is connected with the crash of two planes, one American over the village of Lockerbie in 1988—if I remember rightly, in December—and a French plane over the Niger desert in 1989.

Inquiries were conducted for years. Reference to the Jamahiriyah was never made either from far or near. These inquiries were always conducted and directed at evidence and proofs from other quarters. This was until we were surprised, for somewhat unclear reasons, on 14 November 1991, when the authorities in Scotland and the American Justice Department said that in December two Libyan citizens planted a bomb on board the Pan Am plane flight 103.

At the same time, the French investigating magistrate issued an order for the arrest of another group of Libyan citizens in connection with the bombing of the French Plane UTA over the Niger desert in 1989.

The truth is that when we received these accusations we were astonished, because we were certain that the Jamahiriyah or its citizens had no connection with such issues, which go back to the time of the cold war between the West and the East.

Following this, the United States, Britain, and France issued a tripartite declaration on 27 November 1991 in which they demanded the following:

To comply with all the demands relating to the judicial measures concerning the two aforementioned planes.

The United States and Britain also issued a joint declaration on 27 November 1991 calling for the following:

To hand over all the accused for disposition in court;

to accept responsibility for the actions of Libyan officials;

to reveal information concerning the incident, including the names of all the officials responsible for the incident;

to have access to all the witnesses, documents, and the rest of the material evidence, including special machinery to (?sign an agreement) as they put it, and also payment of appropriate compensation.

France demanded, regarding the UTA plane incident, the following:

to present all material evidence and to facilitate the task of seeing all the documents;

to facilitate contact and necessary meetings and give permission to Libyan officials to respond to all the demands of the French magistrate.

Naturally, at first and through this reading, it seems as though there has already been an investigation, whether in the first or the second case. To be more precise, in the second case, which concerns what has become known as Lockerbie, the matter seems as if an investigation has taken place; a trial has taken place, and a sentence passed.

For example, one cannot talk about making a demand on the question of compensation without holding a fair trial.

After this, the three governments, without a justifiable reason, went to the UN Security Council and raised this question. Security Council Resolution No. 731 was then adopted. It was based on a collection of assumptions—there is no need to talk about them now—a collection of supporting points. Then they developed the question of issuing Resolution No. 748 under Chapter 7 of the UN charter. This constituted a serious precedent, because Chapter 7 is not acted upon or used except in cases of a threat to world peace and security.

As I said this morning, Libya did not threaten world peace and security, and it does not participate in any conflict that leads to a threat to world peace and security.

These resolutions were adopted for several reasons. Regarding the first resolution, 731, the nonaligned states in the Security Council—they are about five states—were told that either they voted for the resolution, or a military action would be taken. The result was that they voted for the resolution. As for Resolution 748, it was rejected by many states. The states that voted for the first or second resolution justified their vote by saying that Libya opposes terrorism, which we all condemn, as much as they do.

This is pretty much the historical background and the demands of these states. I submit them to this Congress very briefly so that they might form points that might be debated. I do not wish to speak in detail.

As to the political effort, I might come back to it—the political effort to confront these unlawful allegations—I might come back to it at a later time if you permit me. Thank you.

[Bakkar] In the name of God: Naturally, as the secretary for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation spoke about how the subject was tackled from the political aspect, I want to inform your conference on the measures taken from the aspect of law. To begin with, allow me to speak about how this issue began.

As my colleague, the secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, said, this case occurred in 1988 and 1989. After the celebrations of the great man-made river and after the address of the brother leader [al-Qadhdhafi], you will recall there was a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab Maghreb states with their counterparts from the five states bordering the Mediterranean: France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Malta. There was a statement from the French foreign minister saying that there was not yet a justification to impose a boycott on Libya, because Libya was a member of the Arab organization and the Arab Maghreb Union. On the same day, the French Judge Breguier issued an indictment, which he circulated to Interpol, demanding that four Libyan citizens be investigated by him. One week after this, despite the fact the these were two different cases—a French case with its own circumstances and time, and the Pan Am case that has its own circumstances—one week after, the Scottish public prosecutor issued his indictment accusing two Libyan citizens. Approximately 10 days later, the decision was issued by the grand jury in the District of Columbia (?east of America). I wanted to explain this by way of introduction so that the brother secretaries of the Basic People's Congresses can understand that—despite the fact that both cases are different in substance and form and despite the fact that the timing was different—the decisions to prosecute coincided in this manner. This conveys the impression that there was an attempt to make the political aspect of this case come in from the first day the accusation was leveled. [passage omitted]

The two Libyan judges who were placed in charge of investigating these cases issued a letter, which was dispatched through diplomatic channels and also to the General People's Justice Committee. The letter was in turn sent to External Liaison via embassies looking after the interests of those countries, addressing the Scottish general prosecutor and the chairman of the grand jury in the United States in an attempt to cooperate in every way liable to help this case.

Indeed, we expected that following the letter permission would be forthcoming. Naturally, the judge asked in his letter to the prosecution in those two countries for the following:

Either that the Scottish general prosecutor and the head of the jury in the United States come to Libya to see what they wanted to see and to hear the suspects' statements, or that the Libyan judge be allowed to travel to the United Kingdom and the United States to cooperate with justice there and see the documents and charges so that these could be supported before the judge by the laws and so that the judge could find firm evidence to face the suspects with during the investigation. Unfortunately, the response was to reject this idea out of hand.

French justice, in fact, differs from that of the United States and Britain. France did not say surrender the suspects. It asked any party where those individuals might be to arrest them and to inform the French judge, knowing that French justice prohibits surrender. We waited and tried more than once, using all means, to send the Libyan judge or to get the U.S. judge and the Scottish general prosecutor, but they did not respond to that either.

Another proposal was made whereby investigators could come to participate in the investigation under what is called judicial mandate, which is an internationally recognized norm—when a crime is committed somewhere and the judge wishes to go to another country, he is allowed by virtue of judicial mandate to interrogate the accused or the suspects and to see the documents to enable him to complete the investigation. That was also rejected, but the Jamahiriyah did not stop at that.

Although this case is a legal one, it has been attempted to make it more of a political case, because, as a matter of fact, the Jamahiriyah's or the suspects' legal positions during the investigation confirmed that they had absolutely nothing to do with the case, be it directly or indirectly, knowing that the Libyan judge had taken measures concerning receipt of the charges from those countries and dealing with them as though they were genuine ones issued by Libyan judges, although it was possible not to look into them at all—and the response was denial, rejection, or complete nonrecognition of all those charges.

As a consequence, the Libyan judge found himself in a very delicate position: before him he has suspects, charges, but no evidence confirming or supporting the legal position.

We also made another proposal whereby we could start a joint investigation with those countries [word indistinct] to safeguard the fairness of the investigation, to guarantee achieving the truth and not hindering vision, as the three countries are entitled to a joint investigation. That idea was also rejected.

It was also proposed that—because this case has become an international one by virtue of the information on the people who died and the fact that public opinion at large is talking about it—we proposed resorting to or opting for arbitration at a place to be agreed by all; a neutral place that is neither part of those other countries party to the dispute, nor of Libya. That proposal was also rejected. [passage omitted] This is called a dispute over jurisdiction. America says: It is within my jurisdiction, because the passengers and the aircraft are American. Consequently, the flag is an American flag, and the law that is to apply is the American one. Britain says: It is within my jurisdiction in view of the fact that the event happened in Scottish airspace and on its land, which are British. Consequently, it is within British jurisdiction. Libya says: The two suspects are Libyans, and Libyan law stipulates that they have the right to be judged by the Libyan judiciary in conformity with the two laws on criminal proceedings and penalties issued in 1953. Consequently, there is a legal term, called the dispute over jurisdiction. Which of these laws, or which of these courts, are competent?

We resorted to the International Court of Justice [ICJ] and asked it to determine the competent laws. We said and announced that we respect the decision of the ICJ. There were two requests made of the ICJ: An original procedure, which is the point I have just spoken of and which consists in determining the competent court and law. Libya also requested the ICJ to prevent temporarily any measure against it from Britain, America, and France as soon as the Court issues its judgment on this issue.

This was called a temporary measure for fear of the occurrence of damage that would be impossible to avoid—like what happened in 1986 when Libya was accused of having caused an explosion in a Berlin night club, and then it was confirmed eight months later that Libya had no connection whatsoever with this issue. We paid the price in the unjust raid in 1986 when Tripoli, Benghazi, and the brother leader's home were hit, and hundreds of Libyan innocents including the old, the children, women, and young people were killed. Hospitals, schools, and nurseries were hit. We truly did not want a repetition of this tragedy. We requested that the ICJ at least ask these countries to refrain temporarily from carrying out any action until the judgment of the ICJ was passed.

The ICJ debated the issue on 26 March 1992. The Libyan defense was 100 percent a legal defense, while the defense of the other party was a political defense with no link whatsoever with law. But as my colleague said this morning, it seems that our times are not those of the strength of law, but of the law of force. Obviously, the session of the ICJ was postponed to 14 April 1992. On this date, the Security Council...[rephrases] Obviously, this matter is best left to my colleague who is competent on this issue—the Security Council passed Resolution 748 under the so-called Chapter 7.

This chapter, brothers, from a legal point of view—I wish I had brought you the full text—only applies in cases where one country is threatening another, when world peace is threatened. The case that applies to this issue is Chapter 6. Obviously, Chapter 7 does not come under the so-called settlement in a peaceful and logical way through dialogue. It was requested that the issue be settled under Chapter 7 in view of the existence of a critical issue, that the world is threatened and that catastrophes might happen, etc. So, it was applied under this [word indistinct]. Regrettably, this issue was not looked at in the same way as other issues have been tackled; such as the Israeli aggression, the current situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the situation in Russia. None of these issues, neither in wartime nor in the dispute between us and Israel, have ever been put under Chapter 7. They were all put under Chapter 6.

Supposing that Libya shot down that airplane—something that has never happened and is rejected by the Jamahiriyah—the Jamahiriyah wants to get at the truth of this matter. The truth now concerns us, because the accusation is leveled at the Jamahiriyah, and the shame has affected its reputation. The aim of distorting the Jamahiriyah, we believe, was not a legal question but far beyond that. This is a subject that does not concern me. I speak on the legal aspect only. We are searching for a legal settlement.

When the court passed its sentence it ruled that Libya has no right, as a lot of the brothers recall, to object to Resolution 748. We did not object to Resolution 748, because it had not been issued at the time. You all have heard about the proceedings and the legal measures taken by our People's Bureau in Belgium, which was representing the Jamahiriyah, and you have heard the defense lawyers' case. At that time there was no question of the Security Council ruling.

The court's ruling—and this is a question that I do not want to delve into, for even if the ruling of the ICJ was incorrect, we respect it and appreciate its rulings because it is a judicial body we agreed to resort to and, therefore, we have to accept its rulings—was concerning the formative side; namely, it ruled that we cannot pass a sentence against the resolution of the Security Council, while the actual subject basically required was against America, Britain, and France rather than the Security Council. Simply, at that time the resolution of the Security Council had not been passed yet.

From the aforementioned, brothers, we believe that what the Jamahiriyah has offered on the legal side was flexible in the utmost. We offered the Libyan judicial system, or an agreed upon judiciary, or to sit in a joint committee, or to resort to the ICJ, all of which was not accepted by those countries.

I wish to tell you the latest item of news, which came the day before yesterday. It seems that Germany still speaks the truth, although we differ with it ideologically. The day before yesterday the prosecutor general of Frankfurt was quoted by Radio Germany as saying that the investigations accusing Libyan citizens in the case of the Pan Am plane should be stopped because of insufficient evidence. As you know, the basic accusation was that the bag was loaded in Malta and sent to the Frankfurt airport. Malta and Frankfurt are supposed to be two western states. They are neither Eastern nor Arab states. Malta stated that no bag whatsoever left Malta. As for Germany; its prosecutor general was quoted by Radio

Germany as having said that the investigation accusing the two Libyan citizens in respect of the Pan Am plane should be stopped for insufficient evidence. The radio quoted [name indistinct] as having stressed that the evidence is insufficient to charge the two men, and the special investigations of the Libyans must be stopped. The radio stated that (?Washington's view) that explosives were transported to Germany through Malta and were placed in the plane at Frankfurt was based on assumptions and speculations and not on legal evidence. In other words, they are based on security assumptions and not legal ones. As you know, the judgment in any court should be supported by evidence.

Brothers, based on that, it becomes clear to you and to the whole world that the Jamahiriyah's legal position is correct. I would like to stress to you that that was affirmed at the Arab Interior Ministers' Council that the Jamahiriyah's position was correct, and whatever it has adopted was based on a correct position. Finally, the Arab Justice Ministers' Council in Cairo affirmed that the Jamahiriyah's position from the legal perspective was correct and that it supported international and local laws and the (?sovereignty) of states and that whatever it has adopted was based on correct logic. As I said previously, though, it seems that the issue is not a legal one but something else, which I leave to the specialists. The issue is now before your Congress. [word indistinct] from the BPC (?regarding) this issue. The whole world wants to hear what the Libyan people have decided regarding this issue. Thank you. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

[Al-Bishari] The truth is that it must not be understood at any time that the Jamahiriyah is in a state of confrontation or in opposition to the United Nations or the UN Security Council. This is a basic fact that should be explained in a clear manner.

There is, however, a confrontation, opposition, and a dispute between ourselves and these three states. They have specific demands to which I referred previously: like handing over all the accused so that they could be brought for trial; accepting responsibility for the actions of the Libyan officials; revealing information concerning the incident, including all the names of those responsible for the incident; and access to all the witnesses, documents, and the rest of the material evidence. These are nearly all the demands. They constitute a conflict between us and them in this case, which is of a legal nature but has turned political.

They involved the UN Security Council unwillingly in this matter. They issued Resolution 731, to which I referred this morning and which I said that we have accepted. Afterward they involved the Security Council in the issue unwillingly, under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, contrary to the letter and spirit of the UN Charter, which calls for solving disputes between states by peaceful means.

I go back and stress that we are not in a state of confrontation with the UN Security Council even if we did reject Resolution 748, and it is our right to reject it, because it is an unjust and high-handed resolution. It does not apply to this case. The world should know, however, that there is a dispute between us and these three states and not between us and the United Nations.

['Abd-al-Raziq Sawsa', secretary of the GPC and chairman of the session] This issue was submitted to the BPCs, the holders of sovereignty and decision-makers on all internal and external issues. The subcommittee that you have entrusted with external policy has collated everything that the BPCs have said on this issue. The congress is bound to know, now that it has heard the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice. The congress is bound to know, at least through the people's congresses of the municipalities, what these congresses have said. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified secretary of the Judiciary and Prosecution Union] Brothers, Secretary, and members of the GPC:

I would like to talk to you about three points. The first point is what has been said about the fairness of the judiciary in the Jamahiriyah; the second is the competence of Libyan law in dealing with the case and whether the law texts contain punishment if the charge were proven; and the third relates to handing over the Libyan suspects.

From this free platform, I say to you that the work of the judiciary does not need to be defended by anyone. It draws its legality from the laws that society laid down and the consciences of those working in this sector.

Second, I can assure you that according to the meaning of the internal law issued in 1953—which is in effect and which applies to this case and that is the criminal procedures and penal law—we find that it is one of the most firmly-established laws, both old and new, mandating severe and deterring punishment for those committing such acts. It has not stopped at punishing Libyans who are inside the Jamahiriyah; its effect extend to criminals committing crimes outside the country who have not been tried in the countries where they commit the crimes.

This is proof of the equity of our legislation and our laws.

Third, as regarding extradition, Article 493 of the criminal procedures stipulates not extraditing Libyan nationals except in accordance with an international convention or agreements. This text is not unique to Libyan law but can be found in the legislation of world states, including the extradition agreements concluded between members of the international community.

This is what I wanted to clarify and confirm to you, hoping that the international community would treat this case according to the law and their dynamic consciences. Peace be upon you.

[Al-Bishari] [passage omitted] Let me say the following:

At the time that we stressed our rejection of Resolution 748 and considered it unjust and unacceptable, because it was thrust under Chapter 7—since, as I said, the Jamahiriyah did not threaten international peace and security—despite our condemnation of these two incidents and our sympathy toward the victims' families and our condemnation and denunciation of acts of international terrorism, we, in return, accepted Resolution 731.

According to procedures carried out so far with respect to this resolution, we covered a lot of ground in implementing it. There are dealings with the UN Secretary General and the Security Council, as well as procedures with some of the concerned states, such as Britain, regarding compliance with this resolution. The aim of all this is to make the Security Council feel that our implementation of Resolution 731 must automatically lead to nullifying Resolution 748.

I would also like to say that, as a matter of fact, this issue before us is a sensitive one that touches on our future and should, therefore, be handled with a great deal of awareness and wisdom. I am certain that the BPCs discussed this matter with awareness and complete understanding. I am also certain that if we look closely at the resolutions of the BPC's, we might arrive at a convincing answer that will eventually, together with the political effort, lead out of this dilemma that we are now living through. Thank you.

Government Said To Seek Improved Ties With West

NC2206164292 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 20 Jun 92 p 2

[Muhammad Matar dispatch from Surt]

[Text] Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libyan secretary of external liaison and international cooperation, stated that he will soon visit Cairo to express his thanks for Egypt's distinguished, objective and indisputable role. In statements to AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I yesterday, al-Bishari said he will explain to the entire world Egypt's splendid role and President Mubarak's admirable efforts to resolve the Libyan-Western crisis.

The Libyan external liaison secretary stated that Libya is attempting to improve its relations with the West, particularly with the United States and Britain, noting that relations with the latter are better than in the past. He added that both sides—Libya and Britain—have made good progress following the recent meeting in Geneva and the British officials' statements, which were greatly encouraging.

Al-Bishari categorically denied British Secretary of State Douglas Hurd's statements about Libya's continued cooperation with the IRA, affirming that his country has completely stopped assisting the IRA. He maintained that his country's assistance to the IRA was meant to spite the United States and Britain in the wake of the U.S. air raid on Libya in 1986.

Al-Bishari denied reports about the presence of division within the Libyan People's Congress, adding that there simply are differing views.

In his statements, al-Bishari disclosed that Libya intends to close down the Islamic al-Da'wah Society, al-Jihad Fund, the General Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress, and the General Secretariat of the Arab Revolutionary Committees.

Britain's Major Doubts Ties Severed With IRA

LD2106224392 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] British Prime Minister John Major stated before the House of Commons in his country that he is doubtful and considers it unlikely that Libya has severed its relations with the IRA. He also doubts the correctness of the information Libya has provided.

He added that he also doubts Libya stopped supplying the IRA with arms. Major said Libya noted that it hopes to stop supplying the IRA with assistance.

Arabs' Upholding Boycott Criticized

LD2106212492 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1855 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Jun (JANA)—The daily AL-JAMAHIRIYAH, published by the revolutionary committees, wrote an article in today's issue entitled "Thanks to Our Arab Brothers." It states:

The explosion that occurred in one of Tripoli's suburbs, al-Sawani, yesterday claimed the life of 10 [as received] people and injured some 143 people, some of them seriously. The explosion occurred in a depot of fireworks and explosives that were used to demolish rocks before the tractors were used during construction of the Great Man-Made River.

Amid the congestion, confusion, and chaos created by the explosion, the rescue and fire services made mighty efforts to control the situation, to extinguish fires, rescue those injured, and pick up the victims. During that time, the health authorities at the central hospital and other hospitals, represented by a committee of specialized doctors, found that 17 people [passage indistinct] and decided to send them abroad to save their lives.

A maritime flying rescue operation was equipped to transport them to Malta, but, regrettably, they died en route, while the speedboat was on the way to Malta. Another group traveled by land toward the Libyan-Tunisian border, 100 kilometers away, where the nearest airport in Tunisian territory is located on the island of Jerba. The serious condition of the injured made the driver of the car carrying them drive at high speed to save the lives of the citizens. But this was futile, and they died before they arrived at the border gate— after traveling two thirds of the distance, and 17 cases could have been saved if our Arab brothers had not stuck to Resolution 748.

But we should not embarass our Arab brothers with contradicting international legality. Was it not better for Libyans to die rather than international legality to be infringed? Is this not a strange irony occuring before our eyes? It was possible to save those citizens if it was possible to use the help of the aircraft stationed 10 kilometers away from the site of the explosion. But our Arab brothers [words indistinct] a permission from New York, but could the case of the injured wait until permission was secured?

Libyans were dying in front of the Arabs, and the Arabs were watching, and they are happy with Resolution 748. Thanks to the Arab brothers, wherever they may be. These are our Arab brothers, our natural extension, and our strategic depth, and our refuge in need. Are they not the ones who closed their airspace in our faces in the most severe humanitarian cases which [word indistinct] cannot be imposed on them, and where commitments may not be observed?

Thanks to our brothers, who are imposing this severe boycott on us under the darkest circumstances.

Daily Accuses Arabs of Abandoning Libya

LD2006224892 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1614 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 20 Jun, (JANA)—Today's AL-JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper published an article under the title "the Bothers' Reproach," in which it analyzed the abandonment and retreat of the Arab brothers' positions and their lack of action since the outbreak of the fabricated Pan Am case against the Jamahiriyah, leaving Libya to stand alone before the strongest power of this age. AL-JAMAHIRIYAH began its article by stating:

"We hear these days what Arab and Western media circulate. We listen to them, aware of the lack of truth in these media and those trumpets, which attempt to reverse facts and make them appear in a manner that we neither believed nor knew. They attempt to falsely accuse us, as though the media wanted one day to see us as they wanted us to appear.

"These media concentrated on what AL-JAMAHIRIYAH published in its daily editorials of talks about Arab positions and the frustrated state that befell us.

"We were preparing ourselves, and our brothers, for the wager. They promised to go before us into the combat arena, only to see them run away. The battle was fierce. The following holy Koronic verse was circulating: 'Say to thee: We were engaged in looking after our flocks and herds, and our families,' [Chapter XLVIII, verse 11]. This is the fraternal slogan proposed in the Arab arena. Our expectations were disappointed, and the parties were met with failure.

"If today's Arabs were distracted from us by their money and themselves, we have never been distracted from them for a quarter of a century. Don't we have money and families?" [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Minister Clarifies Comments, Stance on Iraq

JN2306063492 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Manama, 23 Jun (WAKH)—The Bahraini information minister has commented on what was reported by some foreign news agencies and radio stations with regard to the interview conducted with His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of Bahrain, by the British FINANCIAL TIMES. Some news agencies and radio stations cited the Bahraini prime minister as saying that there is a change in the stand of the State of Bahrain. The Bahraini information minister described these reports as absolutely baseless. The Bahraini minister added that his highness the prime minister has reiterated Bahrain's absolute abidance by the resolutions of the United Nations, the international community, and the Gulf Cooperation Council states. The minister said that his highness gave his instructions to make this explanation in order to prevent any misinterpretation of his statement.

Kuwait

KUNA Reports 75 Iraqis Executed for Uprising

LD2106214992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1745 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Damascus, 21 Jun (KUNA)—Authorities of the Iraqi regime, during the last week, have carried out the execution of 75 Iraqi citizens charged with participating in the popular uprising and cooperating with the Iraqi opposition.

A statement issued by the Information Center of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq stated that the executions were carried out at the General Intelligence Directorate detention camp in Baghdad, which houses hundreds of detainees, including members of the opposition of Saddam Husayn's regime who were brought from various governorates of Iraq. The statement affirmed that among those executed were dozens of old people, children, and women.

ICRC Refuses 'Conditional' Offer To Visit Iraq

LD1906152492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1222 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross accused the Iraqi regime of reneging on a previous unconditional promise to allow the commission's representatives to visit the Iraqi detention camps and prisons to look for Kuwaiti and other detainees.

A commission official told KUNA here that the commission has rejected a "conditional" invitation recently extended by the Iraqi regime to allow the commission's representatives to visit the regime's prisons and to meet only the directors of these prisons instead of the detainees themselves, a matter that contradicts the basic principles according to which the humanitarian organization works.

Last March, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz told the UN Security Council that his government was ready to allow the commission's representatives to visit the Iraqi prisons and detention camps and to search, freely and without interference, for Kuwaiti and other detainees in accordance with the Geneva convention and treaties.

The official said: "Iraq has invited us to visit the detention camps for reasons related to the deterioration of the situation in Iraq and the improvement of the situation in Iran, and asked the commission to return them to their homeland (sic)."

Court Sentences Persons Accused of Aiding Iraq

LD2006166292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1452 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 20 Jun (KUNA)—The State Security Court sentenced four persons, accused of working at the so-called AL-NIDA, to 10 years imprisonment, and acquitted one defendant on another case regarding belonging to the so-called Iraqi People's Army.

The state security court, first department, was presided over by Counsellor Salah al-Fahd, who pronounced prison sentences of 10 years and fines totalling 2,000 Kuwaiti dinars against all four defendants: Hasan A., Dawud S., Muhammad Z., Nawaf A., all with Jordanian nationality. [passage omitted]

During the same session, the state security court acquitted the defendant Muhammad J. of the charge of working, spying, and belonging to the so-called Iraqi People's Army.

The court ruled that the accused Jabran J. be sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for belonging to the so-called Iraqi People's Army and for working and spying for an enemy state.

The court postponed pronouncement of its verdict against 'Abd-al-Muhsin Kh., 'Abd-al-Karim J., and Hamad M. until July 5. The three are accused of murder, involvement in murder, and illegal possession of arms and explosives.

The State Security Court has decided to announce its verdict on 25 July in two other cases tried during today's session. With regard to the first case, the State Security Prosecution demanded the death sentence be passed on defendant Siham A.—a Kuwaiti—who is accused of working in the interest of the occupation forces, conveying information to the latter, guiding them to members of the resistance and the [Kuwaiti] military, and weakening the morale of the people. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Jordanian Remarks on al-Aqsa Mosques Rejected

LD2106184392 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1520 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 21 Jun (SPA)—A responsible source has made a statement to SPA. Here is the text of the statement:

We have been following with much regret the strange allegations that have been made recently by Jordanian media organs, whether in statements or successive press articles, on Jordan's exclusive right to carry out repair work on some of the Islamic places in the city of Jerusalem.

No sooner had the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced its immediate response to the appeal which the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, had received from the director general of UNESCO, Frederico Mayor, to save some mosques in the city of Jerusalem from collapse and neglect, than the Jordanian regime suddenly came to life, after a long silence to all UNSECO appeals, to declare its readiness now to undertake the necessary repair work in Jordan's capacity, as Jordanian media organs put it, as the sole side that has the right to undertake this work.

The source added: The gestures of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, under the leadership of beloved King Fahd Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, to carry out restoration work on the houses of God and its sincere response to foot the bill for the necessary repair work on the mosque, which was built by Khalif 'Abd al-Malik Ibn Marwan [of the 'Umayyad dynasty], the al-Aqsa Mosque, and the mosque of 'Umar Ibn al-Khattab, may God rest his soul, was not for political aim or a publicity stunt, but because the Kingdom has been and still is committed to undertaking this Islamic duty voluntarily and with conviction, solely in order to earn God's blessing and God's acceptance and to express its thanks to God for his bounties .

The source said: The interest of the Kingdom today in repairing those mosques and what follows that was not a new venture, but was an extension of what was carried out by the Kingdom in 1962 in the way of repair work on those places and what it provided in 1987 in the way of contributions to cover the expenses of the studies of the project which was prepared by UNESCO for this purpose.

The source further said in his statement: today we ask ourselves—why is Jordan raising this clamor against the initiative of the Kingdom concerning this good deed, and what infraction have we committed that we are faced with this Jordanian positon, which has ulterior motives in both its style and objective? And where was Jordan's zealous concern [over the Jerusalem mosques] when the general conference of UNESCO at its 26th session held in October and November 1991 issued its resolution calling for the setting up of a council consisting of men of science highly competent in the domain of building and construction to offer advice for repairs to and restoration of the important Islamic vestiges and properties in the city of Jerusalem? And why did Jordan remain silent when Mr. Mayor charged his personal representative, Prof. Lemaire, with presenting a detailed report on the state of the cultural heritage in the city of Jerusalem so as to quickly undertake whatever necessary to save them from loss?

And why did Jordan ignore the successive UNESCO appeals, the first of which was in 1985 at the 23rd session, and the second in 1987 at the 24th session? And why did Jordan not object to the project adopted by the general conference of UNESCO to draw the attention of the member states to the deteriorating state of the Dome and other Islamic places in Jerusalem? As for the third appeal, it was issued in 1989 by the general conference of UNESCO to save the Islamic places in Jerusalem and to offer the necessary support for repairing them. It was the appeal adopted by all the member states whose UNESCO ambassadors signed it.

And has Jordan forgotten its agreement with the text of the resolution issued by UNESCO after the declaration of the setting up of the State of Palestine, which provides for dealing directly with Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem? And why did Jordan not object to the decision of the Arabia committee, emanating from UNESCO, issued in January 1992, providing for the taking of immediate practical steps for repairs to the al-Aqsa mosque in light of a comprehensive report on its current situation? The decision was distributed at the time to the Arab ambassadors, and it was then sent to the government of Jordan.

The source further said: we also would like to point out in this context that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques, was dealing with an international organization accepted by the Islamic, Arab, and international world when Saudi Arabia announced its immediate response to the UNESCO appeal. [passage omitted]

Why did Jordan begin, via its media organs, to level accusations against the Kingdom in a reproving manner?

We kept silent for a long time and. if the matter had not exceeded the limits, we would not find it necessary to dot the "i"s and cross the "t"s, particularly when we began to hear recently Jordan's demands that it has to receive the amounts which were based on the estimates of the experts. We believe that the task rests with UNESCO, in its capacity as the international organization qualified for this work; the Kingdom did not enter as a third party in this matter. All that the Kingdom did was to respond to the appeal, and accordingly it announced its complete commitment to paying all the expenses necessary for the repair work on the aforementioned mosques in addition to building or repairing the houses of those who have been taking care of the mosques and who supervise them.

After this decision, the Kingdom received dozens of telegrams and many statements which support its gesture. [passage omitted]

The responsible source concluded its statement by saying: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which was honored to be the custodian of the two holy mosques and whom God has guided to do whatever serves Islam and the Muslims, does not wish to enter into a media mudslinging match with others. It does, however, most strongly reject being insulted, despite its restoration and sincere positions, which are well known far and wide.

All we seek here is to be able, with God's will, to carry out the repairs project that concerns the three mosques in the city of Jerusalem without obstacles or hindrance and far from any political aim.

King Fahd Congratulates Azerbaijan's Elchibey

LD2106224692 Riyadh SPA in English 1939 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Jeddah, June 21, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has sent a cable of congratulation and good wishes to Abulfaz Elchibey on the occasion of his election as president of Azerbaijan.

In his cable, King Fahd on behalf of the Saudi people and Government expressed the heartfelt compliments and congratulations to President Abu al-Fadhl and hoped for more progress and prosperity to the brotherly people of Azerbaijan under his leadership.

Foreign Minister on UNSC Border Statement

JN1906193992 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1806 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Mr. Ahmad Husayn, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq, has made the following statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY. He was reacting to the U.S.-imposed statement issued by the president of the UN Security Council on 17 June 1992. The foreign minister said: It is no longer a cause of great surprise for the United States and Britain to impose on the Security Council a new comedy that has proved objectionable worldwide and to authorities on international law. The statement issued by the council's president 17 June 1992 was full of deception and falsehoods, as well as being a breach of international law. We have no doubt that the governments that inspired the statement and had the council adopt it were unconcerned by the double standard that typifies their stands and policies when they brush aside the rules of international law, which defines the correct approach to resolve border issues. Neither did they hesitate to drag international legitimacy into a suspect effort that scorns the principle of mutual consent on the question of borders as enshrined in international law.

The foreign minister said: As a crutch, the authors of the statement use the iniquitous resolutions they had the Security Council pass—resorting to known practices—before, during, and after the oppressive 30-state aggression on Iraq.

This fact lays bare the U.S. style, which is based wholly on haughtiness and oppressive force. It also exposes the hatred and spite felt by aging Britain toward Iraq and the Arab nation.

The statement, falsely and unjustly attributed to the Security Council, can be described only as a new document damning the oppressive policies toward Iraq and the Arab nation pursued by the nations controlling the Security Council. It also furnishes conclusive evidence that the United States and Britain are bent on pursuing their wrongness and implementing their game plan of controlling the region with a view to looting its resources and enslaving its peoples, thus recalling the age of colonialism, which was rejected by the world generations ago.

The foreign minister said: Through the statement, the United States and Britain have used all their maliciousness and resources in an attempt to effect cheap answers to my letter to the UN secretary general concerning the border demarcation committee's notorious decisions. However, the reaction of the United States and Britain was ridiculous and naive. It was devoid of any just or fair content and of any facts based on any article of international law. These states were satisfied with leaning on the well-known resolutions, coupled with threats. This in itself reveals the extent of the arrogance, injustice, and arbitrariness that characterize the policies and stands of the United States and Britain.

These hypocrite states, which tamper with the causes of peoples and nations, are no longer capable of tolerating any stand or opinion that is contrary to their hypocrisy and maliciousness. It is now very clear that most world peoples and countries are expressing consternation against this rejected policy, which is based on the logic of hegemony, force, and of the imposition of falsehoods on people. This is explained by the stands of the nonaligned states, which represent the majority of the members of the international community.

Concluding his statement, the foreign minister said: The fragile U.S.-British statement, which was issued in the name of the UN Security Council, did not bring anything new in terms of the double standard policies of these states and the odd circumstances they are imposing on the Security Council. The threat to use unjust force only constitutes proof of the arrogance and the logic of contempt toward all that is legitimate and acceptable to the majority of the world peoples.

The free people of the world realize perfectly well that what was mentioned in the statement is tantamount to contempt for the principle of achieving peace and security in our strategic region in a fair and objective manner and in harmony with the interests of the region's peoples.

'Ridiculous' UN Stand Criticized

JN2006083392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jun (INA)—The AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper has asserted that Iraq cannot give in to U.S. pressures or cede one iota of its national soil.

In its editorial today, the newspaper affirms that the U.S. practices (?pressing) for the continued aggression against Iraq, be they within the UN Security Council or other international organizations, cannot achieve their goals. The solid national Iraqi posture and strong domestic defenses—represented by the people's unity and cohesion around the leadership of President Saddam Husayn—are more powerful than all plots, insinuations, and schemes.

The paper criticizes the UN Security Council's helplessness in the face of the policies of hegemony and the unilateral imposition and peddling of resolutions through the international organization. The paper says that the statement issued against Iraq last Wednesday has caused the Security Council to lose all touch with impartiality and affirms [words indistinct] that any resolution or statement issued by the Council no longer enjoys any credibility.

AL-JUMHURIYAH states that (?blaming) Iraq without referring to the full details of the foreign minister's 21 May memorandum to the UN Security Council on the Border Demarcation Commission's deliberate [word indistinct] against Iraq affirms to us and to all honest people in the world that the Council has lost its moral status and that it is no longer in possession of the [word indistinct] scale of justice.

The Council, the paper adds, has viewed Iraq's letter through the U.S.-British perspective. It has raised illegitimate questions about Iraq and its just, legitimate rights over its land and water.

The paper describes the Council's stand on Iraq as strange and ridiculous. The depth to which the Security Council has fallen, the paper adds, is a cause for pain and raises (?questions) about the fate of the international organization.

Opposition Criticizes UN Stand

NC1906125092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The ostracized tyrant's regime has added a new crime to its many against Iraq's dignity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Its provocative message to the United Nations over the decision of the committee on the demarcation of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border has made the permanent Security Council members hasten to take intransigent, unjust, and biased stands to confirm the committee's recommendations. Our people do not trust this committee or the documents it adopted, inflicting injustice on Iraq under cover of punishing the ostracized tyrant's regime.

The Voice of the Iraqi People's political editor has written: The Iraqis, who have suffered great injustice and repression at the hands of the tyrant and his regime, courageously stood fast with Kuwait and international legitimacy for the sake of establishing justice, evicting the Saddamist invasion forces from Kuwait, achieving justice for the Iraqi people, and helping it to get rid of the dictatorship and restore Iraq to its natural position as an Arab Muslim country that contributes to the defense of security and stability in the region and lives with its brothers and neighbors in line with its cultural values and great heritage.

But the international organization has gone too far, inflicting new pain on the Iraqi people instead of helping to remove the pain of the past. It exploited the ruling regime's weakness—its contempt for Iraq's holy places and sanctities, and its disregard for international legitimacy—to make an unjust decision, like the one recommended by the committee on the demarcation of the Iraq-Kuwait border, despite the weak Kuwaiti arguments, the scarcity of documents, and the obsolete information on which the committee based its work.

This committee's recommendations, to which the Iraqi people, represented by their opposition national forces, objected as part of Security Council Resolution 687 of 1991, coupled with the ostracized regime's enforced implementation, constitute a hostile action against Iraq, not Saddam Husayn. To contest the committee's technical bases does not deviate from international legitimacy. Saddam Husayn has, as usual, acted recklessly and rejected the Security Council resolution, but our Iraqi people do not reject international legitimacy. They only demand a review of the committee's recommendations, an end to its unjust bias against Iraq, and that the borders be a technical question of historic rights, not of complying with international resolutions.

By warning the ostracized regime and by threatening it with the potentially dire consequences of any violation of Resolution 687, the Security Council members are only going against history and turning themselves into tools of aggression against Iraq's sovereignty under cover of international legitimacy. They are not punishing the ostracized tyrant, but are rewarding him and increasing the Iraqi people's wounds and losses.

The political editor asked: Who is behind this clear bias against right, history, and justice in an institution supposedly established to protect and defend them and stop people tampering with their sanctity?

Oil Negotiations With UN Resume in Vienna

JN2206171292 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 20 Jun 92 p 2

[Excerpts] Vienna—For the third time this year, the United Nations and Iraq have resumed negotiations in Vienna on the conditions necessary for the resumption of Iraqi oil exports.

Iraq's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna has stated the following: We are ready to export oil as of tomorrow. He added: It all depends on whether the United Nations wishes to facilitate the sale of Iraqi oil. The same diplomat said that the new meeting is being held at Iraq's request. [passage omitted]

The UN delegation will be headed by Giandomenico Picco, one of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali's assistants, while the Iraqi delegation is led by Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York. [passage omitted]

Al-Anbari on Oil Talks

JN2206163192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, head of the Iraqi delegation to negotiations with the United Nations in Vienna, has stated that he hopes the document submitted by the UN delegation on the resumption of Iraqi oil export will be accepted. The document sums up the results of the previous rounds of negotiations with Iraq and the points on which there is still disagreement.

This is a comprehensive deal, al-Anbari added, and we will place everything within its framework. He noted that the delegations of the two sides will continue to pursue their work.

Further Reaction to U.S. Crop Burning 'Crime'

Actions Seek To 'Undermine' Iraq

JN2206124592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0622 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jun (INA)—In today's editorials and articles, Iraqi newspapers denounce the new U.S. crime of destroying dunums of wheat and barley on the outskirts of Mosul and the neighboring areas.

The newspapers stress that this aggressive action reflects disgraceful and debased criminal conduct.

AL-THAWRAH says: The burning of our people's food at this particular time is linked to and coincides with the escalation of other aggressive actions through a premeditated program with fixed objectives. These actions clearly seek to undermine Iraq's capabilities, and to confuse it.

AL-THAWRAH exposes the U.S. justifications to cover this ugly crime of destroying 11,000 dunums of wheat and barley in 22 villages in the Ninawa Governorate. Referring to the U.S. Defense Department's attempts to admit the crime after it became exposed, the paper stresses that this cowardly action cannot be attributed to a technical failure or to a confused pilot, especially since it involves the people's food during the harvest season.

In its comment, AL-'IRAQ stresses that the burning of wheat and barley fields falls within the framework of new aggressive methods pursued by the U.S. Administration against Iraq.

The paper notes that this new crime emphasizes the extent of the Bush administration's hatred for the Iraqis, their history, ambitions, and rights.

The paper also says: This crime merely represents an acute sense of failure of the objectives of the hostile plan from which Iraq emerged, despite the massive aggression, more determined to continue its pan-Arab course of liberation.

AL-QADISIYAH says that this criminal and cowardly U.S. action is strong and flagrant evidence of how well-entrenched is the black hatred of the United States and its allies for the Iraqi people.

The paper explains that this new treacherous action can only be understood as a flagrant aggression within a desperate attempt to abort the great Iraqi effort which is steadfast in facing the unjust embargo that is eroding day after day.

Concluding its article, AL-QADISIYAH stresses that Iraq, which has thwarted all previous conspiracies and aggressive plans, is now capable of thwarting this new conspiracy.

Minister Urges FAO To Condemn Burning

JN2206133292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1154 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jun (INA)—Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh has stated that the Pentagon's admittance that U.S. aircraft did drop fire bombs on fields owned by farmers and peasants in Mosul provides evidence of the intentional burning of private property. It is also conclusive proof that the aggression against the brave Iraqi people continues.

These comments came in a second protest letter sent to Dr. Edouard Saouma, director general of the Rome-based UN Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], today. The minister said that setting fires to farms by means of fire disks [aqras] and masses dropped from aircraft denotes the aggressive intentions of criminal Bush against civilian targets and against the food of the Iraqi people.

The Pentagon's admittance of the inhuman crime, asserted the minister, should trigger strong condemnation from all human organizations. This crime must be stopped because it is an ugly one that adds to the colonialist record of the United States and its allies against Iraq and the Arab nation.

Trade Minister Comments

JN2206143092 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, June 22, INA—Iraq has said some 11,000 donums (one donum = 2,500 sq.m) of cultivated land and some 6,600 tonnes of barley and wheat (60 million kilomgrams) have been wiped out by fire caused by incineration flares dropped by American aircraft. The flares were dropped over grain fields in the northern Ninawa Province over the last week.

In a press conference on Saturday, minister of trade, Dr Muhammad Mahdi Salih said the burning of Iraqi grain fields furnishes yet additional evidence to the fact that the U.S. and its allies were bent on the destruction of life in Iraq and starving and killing its people.

The minister added that the U.S. and its allies have left no stone unturned in order to destroy and weaken Iraq.

Dr Salih went on to say that the anti-Iraq coalition has trodden all paths and followed mean policies to ban Iraq from getting basic needs such as medicine and food.

He called on world banks to release frozen Iraqi assets to allow the country to purchase food, medicine and other basic commodities.

He added that in accordance with Security Council Resolution 687, Iraq tried to use its money which is deposited in a bank in Basel, Switzerland, and which amounted to some 350 million dollars to purchase food, saying that the country tried to open a credit with a value of some 60 million dollars to purchase baby milk and another one with 140 million dollars to buy Canadian wheat and Australian rice, but the bank refused to release the Iraqi assets.

The minister indicated that the Ministry of Trade and the Central Bank of Iraq are to sue the Swiss bank for violating the provisions of Security Council Resolution 687 and decisions of the U.N. Sanctions Committee which allow for the release of assets to buy food. He added that Iraq will hold the bank responsible for the rise in death rate among children.

Iraq has notified the bank of this measure, said the minister, adding that if Iraq had been allowed to use its frozen assets, it would have purchased medicine and food and saved lives of children and patients.

The minister said the number of grain farms burned and destroyed by the recent American aggression are over 22 fields.

As regards other impacts of the U.S.-led war, Dr Salih said the aggression has caused a notable increase in death rate among Iraqi people, especially the elderly who suffer from heart diseases and a rise in abortion cases.

The minister said that if these acts were committed against any other country and not Iraq, the U.N. Security Council would certainly have held an extraordinary session and would have taken swift measures against their perpetrators.

The United States has deliberately blacked-out the new crime which is but another one in the chain of atrocities and aggressive policies and measures practised against Iraq, the minister concluded.

Farmers Suffer 'Severe Burns'

JN2206152092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1425 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jun 92 (INA)—Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh has announced that a number of farmers and peasants suffered severe burns when American and British aircraft dropped fire disks [aqras] and masses on their farms near Mosul, burning their harvested wheat and barley.

In a letter to Dr. Hasan Fahmi Jum'ah, director general of the Arab Agricultural Development Organization, the minister said that a number of agricultural machines and other equipment, as well as crop transportation vehicles, were burned when wheat and barley fields in northern Iraq were set on fire. He reported that 11,000 dunums were burned and more than 7,500 tonnes [figure as received] of wheat and barley were destroyed.

The minister refuted the U.S. Pentagon allegations that the act was the result of a mistake by the planes. What happened, he asserted, was an ugly crime and an act of aggression that cannot be ignored.

The minister appealed to the organization and its general director to denounce this horrible crime against the food of the Iraqi people, who are holding out against the unjust economic blockade.

He called on the organization to assume its pan-Arab role in protecting Arab agricultural wealth, which has become one of the targets for criminal Bush, his agents, and his Zionist allies. He also called on the organization to ask the Arab agriculture ministers to assume their historical responsibilities by condemning this criminal act and by disclosing its serious implications on food security in the Arab world.

Letter to UN Details Losses

JN2206172492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1558 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] United Nations, 22 Jun (INA)—Iraq today strongly protested the continuation of America's crop burning activities, saying that this crime conflicts with human principles and international law.

In a second letter sent to the UN secretary general, published officially here today, Monday, Iraq stressed that American aircraft have continued to drop flares on farms and villages in northern Iraq, setting crops on fire.

On 5 June, according to the letter, three aircraft dropped incendiary material on the village of al-Khazaf in the subdistrict of Humaydat, Ninawa Governorate, burning 1,180 dunums planted with wheat and barley.

On the same day, the letter added, other aircraft burned 500 dunums planted with wheat and barley in the village of al-Hasa'id. On 6 June, an aircraft set fire to 300 dunums owned by Haj 'Abd Muhammad al-Haj Huran.

The letter stated that on 7 June the grain fields owned by peasants Jasim al-'Abd, Haj Dhannun al-Ghazal, and Muhammad al-Hasan in the village of al-Shahdaha were targeted. Fire consumed 2,500 dunums. Another 5,000 dunums of agricultural land in the Ninawa Governorate also were burned by U.S. aircraft.

The letter further reported that 2,500 dunums owned by peasants in the village of Tall al-Khazaf al-Kabir were burned.

U.S. Court Ruling on Kidnapping Criticized

JN2106091692 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Unattributed "talk"]

[Text] [Words indistinct] The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the U.S. Administration is permitted to kidnap foreigners and take them to the United States to stand trial. This unprecedented court ruling was adopted after the case of a Mexican doctor who was kidnapped from Mexico by U.S. security men in 1988 and taken to the United States to stand trial on charges of participation in the murder of a U.S. antinarcotics security agent in 1985.

The Supreme Court ruled that kidnapping is legitimate even if it violates international law. Yes, this is what came in the text of the ruling. This means that the U.S. interest is placed above everything else, even international law. This decision simply means that the U.S. law, which under all circumstances expresses U.S. interests, ambitions, and aggressiveness, is above everything else and above all considerations.

However, this U.S. legal weapon, which permits the perpetration of crimes and terrorism to serve U.S. interests, is a double-edged sword. What prevents any country from making such a decision? What prevents the Palestinians, for example, from making a decision that permits the kidnapping of their Zionist and American enemies to try them and pass the sentence of the oppressed and occupied Palestinian people against them? Would the United States have the right to become enraged and describe us as terrorists, murderers, and outlaws, or would it say that all peoples have the right to make the decisions they want to guarantee their interests?

The United States and other countries know that the Palestinian hand can reach wherever it wants. If the Palestinians decide, in accordance with their right to make decisions in the American way, to [words indistinct] that the Palestinian decision violates the law. Let the U.S. decision dictate as it wishes, but it must realize [words indistinct].

Saddam Addresses Higher Education Meeting

JN2306075392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2005 GMT 22 Jun 92

["Recording of the first part of the proceedings of the meeting" chaired by President Saddam Husayn "to discuss the situation of higher education" in Iraq; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] All the brothers attending this meeting have heard the remarks made by Dr. Humam ['Abd-al-Khaliq, chief of the Atomic Energy Authority]. We have always observed, whether at the level of ideas or at the level of expectation, that everything is changing for the better. We refuse to stand still or to stop, even at a point that satisfies us and our ambitions. Stagnation and discontinuation mean backwardness. I have repeated this on several occasions. However, I always deem it useful to recall this at any meeting. This is because the world around us is changing to a certain extent. Measurement is relative. If we say that the level of progress in France is three percent in the such-and-such field, then this is based on the level of progress France itself has made. If progress in Iraq is 10 percent, then Iraq is backward. So, the level of progress in our country must be measured relatively. The relative measurement we mean here is according to what we want in terms of future objectives, and according to the gap of progress between us and others. Someone might say how can we progress at a higher rate than is found in the world? To prove this, we give two examples: The first example is that the rate at which France, Britain, America, or Poland are progressing, is not the same rate they used to progress at a stage similar to the one we are experiencing. The rate of their progress at that time could have been more than three, four and a half, or six percent. This is in accordance with the ability to make progress throughout their various phases. The other example is that our progress, within the framework of our stage, contains all the necessary incentives to make it occur at a higher rate than is found in other people around us. Iraq's civilization is 6,000 years old. However, over the past 15 or 20 years, Iraq succeeded in invoking the 6,000 years of Iraqi civilization in all its aspects in a short period of time; namely, 15 or 25 years. All the 6,000 years were squeezed together during this period. As Iraqis, we do not want to exaggerate, but let us see what happened during this period. Even the level of resisting the factors of evil against Iraq was the same as the level of resistance which took place throughout 6,000 years. We can say that this extends to the battles of al-Qadisiyah [Iraq-Iran war] and other less important battles. But one cannot endure more than he can. Those who lived at that time did not carry more than they could. Evil at that time even was not of the size that necessitated this level of resistance.

Your sacrifices were generous in everything. There are very few battles in which heroes continually make sacrifices, and in which, although guns fall silent, the child continues to resist. This is what happened in Iraq: Children resisted; women resisted; the elderly resisted; the sick resisted; and people who could bear arms and those who could not also resisted. Everybody showed his caliber in a way compatible with the aggression to which he was subjected and the burden of aggression that he had borne.

So can such great sacrifices produce weakness or a small offspring? This is not possible. It is supposed, with God's help, to produce a great offspring. When this great offspring is given such a description, is it enough for it to have a single balance? Can the military alone reflect the character of this great offspring? Can industry alone, agriculture alone, transport and communications alone, or railway alone, reflect this great offspring? Only two things can give the right description of the birth here: Adhering to the values that please God Almighty and creating a new individual capable of bearing this message deservedly and of achieving a level of progress that is balanced in all fields. Awakening should not include industry alone or agriculture alone, or transport and communications alone, or the armed forces in their performance, steadfastness, sacrifices, and heroisms alone. This awakening should include all walks of life and should be nurtured by great spiritual values that please God.

By these meanings, we meet today. And for these meanings we are meeting today, so as to bring about the awakening of the individual in a vital, basic arena that constitutes the main line or the main road that leads to subsidiary human experiences. This is education. The meanings of awakening cannot be complete, according to what we have briefly said, without real prosperity for higher education. And I mean real. For it to prosper, every individual working in higher education, particularly teachers of higher education—whether they are planners, administrators, or those who carry out other duties—should feel that they are required to offer something great, and that they can offer this great thing, and that, according to what we say in Iraq, he should like his job and feel that he is offering something.

There are people exerting enormous efforts and who, according to conventional measurements, should be taken to a hospital because of exhaustion in various work arenas. If you look at their faces, however, you will see how they are content because they like what they are doing. This individual senses that he is offering something great for his country; he is not just an employee who carries out his duties, despite the fact that the Iraqi state should upgrade the way it regards the word "employee" and its meanings.

This employee is a great person. He is the servant of the people in an administrative sense. He is a great person, because he is the servant of the people in the communal, intellectual sense. However, he is also a leader amid the people.

Although we have reached a level of development of which we are proud, this development—in our view—is far below what we should have reached. So far, it is still difficult to man some activities in the government with more university and college graduates. If, today, we have such feeling—not a general human feeling, but a scientific feeling—about a real shortage in the field, in the government, particularly in the scientific fields, what will the situation be like after three years?

I believe that we all agree that nothing on earth—after relying on God's will—can happen without the human being. Man always presents something great when he works in his own field; that is, when he is armed with the requirements needed in this field, and when he is prepared to pave the way in life and to sense his national duty. The ordinary person performs his duty in the service of others and feels that the wage he receives requires such activity. Meanwhile, when the government employee remembers that he is a leader in the society and state and that he is a servant of the people in terms of thought and principles, his qualitative level will then start to rise and he will feel proud. This is because every step he makes will have a great historical effect on the period during which he serves his country and people.

Whenever you ask a person who works 12 hours a day: How are you? Are you tired? He will say: No. Give us more work and tasks so that we will reach a higher level. Such a person will not only feel that he is person who lives his life merely to eat, but that he is a symbol and a headline in the society.

With such a spirit, we want to discuss the tasks of higher education, what is required from us, what is required from you, and what is required from others. Each one of us should know his duties and perform them properly. After relying on God, man can perform any duty required of him. Yes, your excellency the minister of higher education.

[passage omitted] I do not want to interrupt you, but these figures [words indistinct] It is like someone who grows plants and spends money on the soil, on irrigation, and on improved seeds, but when it is time for harvest, he does not protect the plants sufficiently, nor does he spend money on maintaining his sickles so as to reap efficiently. This aspect of spending by the Ministry of Higher Education, even when you have a large figure, is part of this framework. Generally, otherwise, I do not think that the difference is great [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Sometimes, they used to collect donations from teachers' salaries in order to put [word indistinct] and put a broken [word indistinct]. This is because this is not the simplest thing to do. They would raise hell against you. In addition to this, we have a hidden state of egotism. I mean a state that conflicts with sound education. We have lived with it. This is not the place to talk about this state of affairs. However, we cannot but refer to it. We are used to believing that the state must do everything for the citizen as if the citizen has nothing to do with this. But, giving a salary, albeit a small one to the citizen, along with the state efforts, will develop the state and its institutions. This will also instill a sense of responsibility in the citizen toward the state's property in a different way to what he used to have. Compensate the citizen and increase his salary, but tell him that each student of higher education should pay such and such an amount under certain circumstances. Then, spend these funds in specific fields. On the other hand, build a dormitory for the students and let them contribute to it. Let the student feel that he is contributing to the blackboard on which he writes and the film projector or the laboratory tools he uses. This is something that does not exist in the country. This needs detailed discussion on another occasion in order to learn lessons from it.

So as not to blame the students of higher education, I say that you cannot ask them to pay examination fees of 50 dinars. You cannot do this before consultations with the Council of Ministers and the Presidential Office where it might be discussed or rejected. This is something we cannot do except after giving the students the freedom of action within specific limits. Moreover, there should be flexibility in the administration, including such prerogatives. Then, even universities would compete to gain more students. Apart from his salary, the teacher has no other incentives. I have always spoken about such an idea. Had the Ministry of Health discussed its affairs this way, it would not have been able to adopt measures such as giving the doctor a share of the patients' bills. Of course, there are public hospitals where the patient pays nothing. However, there are private beds where the doctor goes and gives special treatment to this patient.

[Saddam continues] I instructed them to give the patient the freedom to even choose the nurse and doctor who is going to treat him. However, there are some fees in return for this. In so doing, we have created a link between the doctor and the results of his work inside the hospital, and not only in his own clinic. In such a case, we provide a higher level of medical care, and reduce the citizen's fee to the doctor in his private clinic. This is because when medicine is developed inside hospitals and dispensaries, the citizens will not go, on a large scale, to the doctors' private clinics. I would have liked this to take place in higher education. I would have liked to give certain limited powers through which the student would make some contribution. Pay this contribution back to the student through a salary, or in some way. However, after a bottle is broken or training aids are damaged, let the citizen feel that he has contributed to them. This is because our view of the public property is still backward. It is very backward. I mean that they cannot ask the student to pay 50 dinars for examination fees, or something like this. [passage omitted]

[Saddam] There is no such thing as satisfaction in science. There is no such law for a person who wants to study, who has the desire, who is ready, and who has the ability to study. Even the speaker, if he has the desire, time, and opportunity to study a subject, and to sit for examinations, we should (?help him). Learn from the cradle to the grave. There is no such thing as satisfaction. If you look at the matter from the angle of the government's absorption of graduates of the faculties of art and science you will be killing scientific development and education in general. Our view is: Give the student the opportunity to study and graduate with a master's degree in arts. Give him the opportunity to learn about poetry and other subjects. What is wrong with this? Should the government employee be an undergraduate or graduate student? We hope that the farmer will be a graduate with a doctorate in agriculture or law, but he is also a farmer. There is no such thing as satisfaction in education or in all levels of studies.

In the one-year, three-year, or five-year plans we can say that we will open four new universities, and then we will open seven; we, for example, will give a master's degree in such-and-such a branch, and then we will be ready to give the doctorate degree. Discussion should be within this framework only. However, there is no such thing as satisfaction. We are still in the first stages in the field of (?higher education).

Orders Allowances for University Teachers

JN2006151692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered fixed monthly allowances in addition to salary for all teaching staff at universities and institutes, each according to his scientific title. This was stated to an INA correspondent by Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq Qasim al-Hashimi, minister of higher education and scientific research. He said: The leader president's generous act gives a monthly allowance of 400 Iraqi dinars to professors, 250 dinars to associate professors, and 100 dinars to teachers. The salary ceiling for all teaching staff has also been raised. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Confers With ICRC Official

JN2206130292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has received (Andreas Koon), assistant director of the Middle East and North Africa Department in the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] [title as heard].

During the meeting, the minister reviewed cooperation between the Red Cross and the Iraqi Government, and the positive and constructive action that facilitates the Red Cross' work in Iraq.

The minister stressed that Iraq has no interest in keeping any prisoners-of-war [POW's], whether Kuwaitis or non-Kuwaitis. Evidence of this is that the Iraqi Government returned all Kuwaiti POW's, including some members of the ruling family in Kuwait, immediately after the aggression against Iraq ceased. The minister explained that what the Americans and the rulers imposed on Kuwait claim is no more than a cheap and evil attempt, the intention of which has become known.

At the end of the meeting, Koon thanked the Iraqi Government for its confidence in the ICRC and its cooperation with it to carry out its duties.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Foreign Minister's organizations and international conferences department.

Saddam's Brother 'Supervising' European Terrorism

NC1906160992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] The Alliance for Justice in Iraq Organization [Munazzamat al-Tahaluf Min Ajl al-'Adalah Fi al-'Iraq] has revealed that Barzan al-Takriti, the brother of the loathed tyrant, is coordinating and supervising terrorist activities in Europe from his office in Geneva.

The organization sent a message yesterday to the president of the Swiss Confederation saying that Barzan, who has diplomatic immunity, gave orders three months ago for the assassination of two Iraqi opposition figures in London. The organization also mentioned Barzan's record of human rights violations in Iraq.

Saddam Congratulates New President of Azerbaijan

JN2106112192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0643 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a letter of congratulations to Ebulfez Elchibey, president of Azerbaijan, on the occasion of his assumption of his constitutional duties. The letter says:

On the occasion of the assumption of your constitutional duties as president of Azerbaijan, we are pleased to send to your excellency warm congratulations, wishing you success in your duties, progress and prosperity for the friendly Muslim people of Azerbaijan, and advancement for your country.

Minister, Delegation Leave for Rabat Meeting

JN2006090092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 20 Jun (INA)—Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, minister of industry and minerals, left Baghdad for Rabat today. He is leading a delegation that will participate in the 12th ordinary session of the ministerial council of the Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining, which is scheduled to be held there on Monday, 22 June, and to last for four days. [passage omitted]

Health Ministry Gives Death Toll for Early 1992

JN2106121592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—As a result of the medical and food siege imposed on Iraq, 40,908 persons, including 14,678 children under five, died in Iraq during the first four months of this year. Dr. 'Abd-al-Jabbar 'Abd-al-'Abbas, under secretary of the Health Ministry, revealed this to INA. [passage omitted]

Talabani on Vienna Conference, Toppling Saddam

NC2306093092 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Jun 92 p 6

[Mustafa 'Abdallah report from Vienna]

[Text] A spokesman for the Iraqi opposition conference in Vienna disclosed at the end of the first day of the conference two days ago that the conference set up general committees to chart a democratic constitution for Iraq, form a parliamentary government, and elect an executive committee to follow up the conference's resolutions. The conference ends on 19 June.

Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], has said that a regional government will soon be formed in the Kurdish areas of northern Iraq.

Talabani told AL-AHRAM that the conference comprises representatives of the basic trends in Iraqi society and that he is able to provide the necessary atmosphere to mobilize the Iraqi people's resources to topple Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in cooperation with neighbors and the international community.

Commenting on the likelihood of the opposition resorting to a military solution to topple Saddam Husayn, Talabani said all solutions are possible. He added that he believes that mobilizing the resources of the Iraqi people and the Iraqi opposition forces within the Army and ruling party may spare bloodshed and help launch a popular uprising to oust Saddam Husayn.

The Kurdish leader affirmed that the Iraqi opposition enjoys international support. He said that the United States and European countries have officially expressed their support for the Iraqi opposition but so far he has seen no financial aid.

He pointed out that Iraqi businessmen are financing the Vienna conference, which 150 Iraqis from various countries are attending. He said Vienna was chosen for the conference because it is a neutral city in a peaceful European country. He noted that, before agreement was reached on Vienna, some people proposed to hold the conference in al-Ta'if [Saudi Arabia], Damascus, Beirut, or London, but the Austrian capital was chosen to allow the Iraqi opposition to preserve its independence and evade charges that it revolves in the orbit of certain regional countries or Arab forces opposed to Iraq.

Talabani said that the conference was well prepared and that a plan was devised to rescue Iraq from dictatorship and introduce a democratic regime. A working paper defining ways for the Iraqi opposition to exercise its activity within and outside Iraq was also compiled, he added.

Radio Monte Carlo reports meanwhile that the Iraqi opposition's joint action committee in Damascus has confirmed that it is boycotting the Vienna meeting. The committee, reported to comprise the most prominent opposition parties, has denied any connection with the conference.

Reportage on Rebel Groups, Fighting in Marshes

'Saddamist Den' Stormed, 3 Killed

NC1906174692 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1320 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate: As part of the campaign by our mujahidin groups to destroy the dens of 'Aflaqite crime and corruption, a heroic group of our popular troops used light weapons and hand grenades to storm a Saddamist den in the area of al-Hayy al-'Askari in al-Majarr al-Kabir in al-'Amarah Governorate in the past few days. With the almighty's help, the group destroyed the meeting place of the henchmen of criminal Saddam Kamil Hasan, one of the tyrant's in-laws, and killed criminals Qasim 'Udhayr, Lazim 'Udhayr, and Jasim 'Udhayr. Criminal schemes against the area's inhabitants were hatched in the den.

The group returned safely to their bases, praise be to the lord, after vanquishing the traitors and hired hands.

Regime Troops Reinforcing al-'Amarah

NC1906171792 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic GMT 1320 19 Jun 92

[Text] In a hopeless attempt to make up for its losses in recent battles in the marshlands, the collapsing Saddamist regime is currently massing troops and increasing its military forces in al-'Amarah marshlands, ready for a hopeless new attack on these areas.

The outcast regime deployed its defeated troops along two major axes: (Shattuniyah), where a division of the tyrant's republican guard 'Adnan troops was deployed, and al-'Adl, where so-called republican guard Hamurabi troops were deployed.

On 7 and 8 June, the vanguard of our popular troops monitored reconnaissance operations by the commanders of these troops along the two axes.

Saddam Massing Troops in Marshlands

NC2106140892 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1320 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] The regime, the enemy of our people and mankind in general, continues to strengthen its military troops and locations in the homeland's southern marshlands and surrounding areas. The regime has [word indistinct] large areas with mines and barbed wire, in order to [words indistinct] the economic and military siege on our [word indistinct] people in those regions. Vast areas of the marshlands in al-'Amarah Governorate continue to come under large-caliber and long-range artillery shelling, whose intensity has increased in the past few days.

Saddam's cowardly followers also continue to perform their ugly criminal acts against the people there to terrorize them because they failed to have any military success in the area.

Rebels Kill Security, Army Personnel

NC2206142492 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1320 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As part of its campaign to liquidate the pernicious and criminal elements, our brave mujahidin meted out God's just sentence on 10 June against criminal 'Awdah Sa'd, a henchman of the regime's security service in al-Basrah. Sa'd repeatedly had ignored the warnings of our Islamic revolution's sons that he should abandon his criminal role and stop tracking down the faithful of the sons of our struggling people.

Our brave mujahidin also took revenge on criminal 1st Lieutenant Imtihan Muzahim Salman on 8 June. He was arrested and subjected to an investigation at a checkpoint set up by the mujahidin on al-Maymunah Road near al-Rifa'i.

Polls Open; Territories' Closure in Effect

TA2306043592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Polling stations around Israel are opening at this hour and voting for the 13th Knesset has commenced. The stations will close at 2200 [1900 GMT]. In small locations, where the number of voters is under 350, polling stations will be open between 0800 and 2000.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that 3,409,000 eligible voters are registered at the Interior Ministry. The Central Bureau of Statistics reports that some 10 percent of them live abroad or have been there for over a year. The Central Elections Committee last night stated that, contrary to rumors spread yesterday, all 25 of the lists of candidates approved by the committee are running. [passage omitted]

Early this morning, the security forces imposed a 24-hour closure on the territories, due to the elections. The security forces in the territories have raised the level of alert to prevent riots. The Army has set up checkpoints in Judaea and Samaria to prevent the residents there from entering the boundaries of the Green Line. In the Gaza Strip, the existing checkpoints will be employed. A military source told our correspondent Moti Amir that residents of the territories who have a permit to stay in Israel will be allowed to do so today as well.

Various Polls Predict Labor, Likud Victories

TA2206134692 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] Following are the results of three polls conducted by Dahaf, Teleseqer, and Geocartographia.

Dahaf: Likud plus right wing plus religious—61
Teleseqer: Labor plus Meretz plus Arab lists—61
Geocartographia: Labor plus Meretz plus Arabs—62-64

Question: Were the elections held now, for whom would you vote? (results in numbers of Knesset seats)

List	Dahaf	Teleseqer	Geocartographia
Labor	41	42	43-44
Likud	32	32	29-30
Meretz	13	13	13-14
Tehiya	3	3	3
Moledet	5	4	4
Tzomet	7	5	6
National Religious Party	5	5	5
United Torah Jewry	4	5	6
Torah Observing Sephardim	5	5	4
RAKAH [New Communist Party]		4	
ADP [Arab Democratic Party]		2	
PLP [Progressive List for Peace]		0-1	
RAKAH +ADP + PLP	5		5-6
Moda'i's New Liberal Party	0	0	0

The Dahaf and Teleseqer polls were conducted late last week and on Sunday. The Dahaf poll encompassed 619 people who were interviewed by telephone, while Teleseqer interviewed 1,399 people. The Geocartographia poll was held Saturday night among 766 people. The three polls are based on a representative sample of the Jewish population.

Poll Shows Labor 2 Seats Ahead

TA2206133892 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 22 Jun 92 p 7

[Text] Labor will win only two seats more than Likud. That is Modi'in Ezrahi's forecast, based on a poll conducted in the second half of June. Some 1,800 people with the right to vote participated in the poll, 1,200 in face-to-face interviews and 600 by telephone.

Modi'in Ezrahi said that the interviewees make up a representative sample of the adult population, excluding Arabs, members of kibbutzim, settlers in the territories, residents of the Golan Heights, and soldiers on Army bases. To find out how these substrata of society will vote, an evaluation was made based on the proportion of these voters' in the population, how they voted in the past, and possible changes in their stands.

All the interviewees were asked to answer the following question: "For which party will you vote in the coming elections?" As in previous polls, some of the interviewees refused to disclose how they will vote. To gauge the "floating vote," the pollsters developed a method based on previous experience. These interviewees were presented with an additional set of questions, such as: "For which list do you tend to vote"; "To which camp do you tend to belong?"

About half of the new immigrants are still undecided, it appears from the poll.

	2d half of Jun	6 Jun	Late May	Nov 88
Likud	38	37	35	40
Labor	40	42	42	39
Moledet	3	4	5	2
Tzomet	6	5	4	2
Tehiya	3	4	3	3
Meretz	11	10	9	10
United Torah Jewry	6	5	6	5
SHAS	4	4	4	6
NRP	5	5	5	5
Arab Lists	4	4	6	6
Total	120	120	120	120

[Key to abbreviations in table: SHAS—Torah Observing Sephardim; NRP—National Religious Party; figures for late May and Nov 88 as published.]

The following is the forecast for the political blocs: Labor plus Meretz—51 seats; Likud plus right wing plus NRP—55 seats; ultra-Orthodox—10 seats; Arab lists—4 seats.

Shamir Election Rally: 'War Is Inescapable'

TA2206115992

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 22 June carries a report on page 2 by No'omi Levitzky on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's closing election rally in the southern Tel Aviv neighborhood of Neve Eli'ezer and his remarks at a Lehi, which was a prestate underground group in which Shamir participated, memorial in Qiryat Ata'. According to Levitzky, Shamir's speech at the Lehi memorial was marked by "blood, sweat, tears, and nostalgia for what he called 'those great crimson-colored days.'" The report adds that "Shamir said: 'We went to war, although we were few. We knew then that there was no choice but to pay the price, and it never even crossed our mind that perhaps it is not worth it or that living is the most important thing. We were broken and exhausted, but remained steadfast in our faith that nothing could crush us. No matter how many casualties, we would never be defeated, even if we remained alone. We still need this truth today, the truth of the power of war, or at least we need to accept that war is inescapable, because without this, the life of the individual has no purpose and the nation has no chance of survival'."

Dowek Says Mubarak Wants Porush To Join Labor

TA2206145392 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Jun 92 p 7

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and Tzvi Singer]

[Text] Ambassador to Egypt Efrayim Dowek has reported to Jerusalem that during a meeting with Rabbi Menahem Porush, the deputy labor and social affairs minister, Egyptian President Mubarak intended to convince Porush to join a coalition led by Labor if it wins the elections.

Ambassador Dowek, who speaks Arabic, wrote in his report that toward the end of the meeting between Mubarak and Porush, Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni turned to the Egyptian president and said to him in Arabic: "Mr. President, why do you not begin discussing the matter we brought our guest here for?" Mubarak replied in Arabic: "I do not think there is any point because he said that his party will join a Likud-led coalition in the future as well."

Mubarak held a long meeting with Porush in which the two men mainly discussed the peace process. According to Dowek's report, the Egyptian president said that the peace process "was stuck with this government." Mubarak added that "no agreement with Syria can be reached without a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights." Rabbi Porush replied that the Shamir government had launched the peace process and has no intention of stopping it. Yesterday, Porush reported on his meeting to the cabinet.

Yesterday, however, whether connected with his visit to Egypt or not, Porush was already voicing quite different sentiments: "If the Alignment gives us what we demand and the Likud does not, we will have to think about it. However, up to now the Likud has supplied the goods, while the Alignment has come out with antireligious declarations." Porush was speaking at a rally of Arab [as published] supporters of Agudat Yisra'el from Rahat, Abu-Ghawsh, al-Tayyibah, Ramla, and Lod.

Further Reportage on Palestinian-'Arafat Meeting

Editorials on Amman Meeting

TA2106122092

[Editorial Report] Most Israeli Hebrew-language newspapers on 21 June carry editorials on the public meeting in Amman last Thursday between members of the Palestinian peace negotiating team and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. All of the editorials agree that the highly publicized move was a deliberate provocation aimed at embarrassing the Shamir government prior to Tuesday's general elections in Israel and forcing the hand of the next government.

Both the left-wing 'AL HAMISHMAR and the mass circulation YEDI'OT AHARONOT claim that the action contravenes the PLO's declared aim of not intervening in the Israeli elections, and will achieve the opposite of its declared aim.

In an editorial entitled "Bad Timing," Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR writes on page 9 that the timing of the meeting is based on "a mistaken and rash move and will not contribute anything to the peace process. Although the Israeli Government's position not to recognize the

PLO as the organization representing the Palestinians was and remains a bad decision, both the PLO and the Palestinian delegation accepted the terms for convening the Madrid conference and transferred legitimate representation to the current delegation. The agreed upon rules of the game cannot therefore be changed unilaterally since failing to honor an agreement does not contribute to credibility."

'AL HAMISHMAR says that although the PLO undertook not to intervene in Israel's elections, the timing of the Amman meeting "is definitely an attempt to influence them." The paper continues, "By its action, it is not helping the peace camp. Quite the contrary, it is almost certain that it is the extreme right wing—which opposes the entire process and is trying with all its might to prove that even the current Israeli Government is conducting direct and indirect negotiations with the PLO—that will benefit."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT, in an editorial called "Another Palestinian Foul Up," writes on page 2 that with the Palestinians, "the right hand does not know what the left is doing, and perhaps it would be more correct to say that they have two left hands." The editorial says that when Hanan 'Ashrawi and Faysal al-Husayni held their "provocative" meeting in Amman, they claimed it was meant to be a message to Israelis to vote against the Likud and for Labor. "The outcome is, of course, the opposite of that declared aim because they do not understand that the average Israeli is unprepared to accept the 'Arafat band as advisers on election matters and rejects its advice out of hand. Do they not understand that the bear hug from Amman adds votes to the Likud and the right wing at the expense of Labor and the left?"

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in an editorial entitled "A Reality Known to All," on page B1 writes that everybody knows that "the Palestinians in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation decide on their policy with Yasir 'Arafat and his advisers in Tunis and that Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi presents the true political situation by saying that 'without the PLO there is no peace process.'" The editorial says that the government cannot be extricated from its embarrassing situation by beginning to take steps based on the law against meetings with the PLO, which should never have been passed. "If it decides 'to go all the way,' in other words, to press charges against the Palestinian suspects, it can expect to be charged with sabotaging the peace process."

HA'ARETZ concludes that "in this case, when upholding the law clashes with a national interest of the highest order—advancing the peace process—defenders of the law will have to take a back seat, especially since they do not appear before the judicial bench of public opinion with clean hands. Their prior indifference to implementing the law shows that it serves them as merely another instrument in their political struggle against the peace process and the autonomy plan for the Palestinian residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip."

Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew writes in its page-2 editorial entitled "A Demonstrative Meeting in Amman" that the meeting the Palestinian delegation held with "master-murderer Yasir 'Arafat is yet another grave stage in the ongoing process of close contacts between the delegation and the PLO." The editorial says that so far the delegation has tried to keep an independent appearance, although it is a well-known secret that it follows PLO dictates in every way.

HATZOFE states that "the demonstrative and provocative meeting in Amman calls for an appropriate Israeli reaction against the members of the Palestinian delegation who attended it while violating the law banning meetings with PLO men." HATZOFE goes on to say that "the government that will be set up after the elections will have to confront this ongoing attempt to get the PLO into the political process."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew carries an editorial on page 9 called "Yasir Is Not Banned." It says: "Two days before the elections, the government's impotence in facing the Palestinians, both those in the territories and those they coordinate with on the outside, has become visible to all. The transparent guise—that Prime Minister Shamir only talks to the residents of Nabulus, Gaza, and Hebron, and not with residents of East Jerusalem or 'Arafat—has been torn off completely. Had Shamir been consistent, he should have fired himself from the government, just as two and a half years ago he wanted to fire 'Ezer Weizman."

Meeting, Delegation Role Analyzed

TA2206170492 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 22 Jun 92 p 10

[Article by Pinhas 'Inbari: "One Hug Too Many"]

[Text] The message which Yasir 'Arafat (as well as King Husayn, from behind the scenes) was communicating last week in the kissing and hugging scene in Amman can be hardly misread. The PLO and Jordan have decided to remove the Palestinian delegation from the territories from the stage and to position the joint Jordanian-PLO delegation in its place. The latter has been intermittently associated with the political process since the 1970's, as was the case during the bungled "Cairo dialogue" episode two years ago, when former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin tried to dissociate himself from the long-standing cooperation with Jordan in favor of a new move that focused on an exclusive encounter with a delegation of Palestinians from the territories that would be held in Cairo rather than Amman.

The entire political process was founded on the absence of any link between the delegation from the territories and the PLO. As will be remembered, delegation member Sa'ib 'Urayqat announced on the eve of departure for Madrid that he had been appointed by the PLO, for which he was publicly rebuked by Faysal al-Husayni—then at the peak of his power—who pointed out that there is no connection between the delegation and the PLO. The kisses and hugs in Amman have dislodged one of the pillars of opening agreements and have de facto divested the delegation of its right to an independent existence.

Israelis naturally tended to explain the scene only in the context of the relationship between the Palestinians and Israel and of the desire to intervene in the Israeli election campaign. Although this development is indeed vitally connected to the Israeli election campaign, this context is but one in a broader spectrum of circumstances, and the Israeli explanations that the step was designed to either hurt or help Shamir are beside the point. In reality, the step was a signal to Rabin—if he becomes prime minister—pointing to the identity of his future negotiating partners.

Three factors determined the fate of the Palestinian delegation: its failure to strike root in broad circles in the territories, and hence its growing dependence on the protection of the Tunis branch of the PLO vis-a-vis almost all the strong PLO organizations, including Fatah in the territories; direct Saudi penetration into the territories in a frontal effort to upset the Jordanian and PLO hold on their seats of power (see the al-Aqsa mosques affair and the dismissal of PLO-supporting employees from al-Maqasid Hospital); and Labor leader Yitzhaq Rabin's declaration that as soon as he is elected prime minister, he will sit down to "around-the-clock" talks with the Palestinian delegation in a bid to reach an agreement on interim period arrangements. In the Friday interviews, Rabin even referred to one of the delegation leaders' announcement, although he did not refer to him by name, in favor of a confederation—not with Jordan, but with Israel.

Sometimes marginal events attest to invisible, more wide-ranging processes. Over a week ago, the Janin health association published an advertisement thanking Faysal al-Husayni for his help in purchasing expensive medical equipment for the local hospital. So far so good. The ad further said, however, that to obtain the financing for the purchase, al-Husayni used his clout with the Islamic Bank for Development, which is a Saudi bank. At a time when the Saudi financial aid to the territories is contingent on the removal of PLO supporters, the ad was a disservice to al-Husayni.

Not long ago, 'AL HAMISHMAR published a report that, following the previous round of talks in Washington, King Fahd had summoned one of the leaders of the Palestinian delegation to come to him in Riyadh. 'Arafat approved the meeting, but restricted it to efforts to improve relations between Saudi Arabia and the PLO. Although the official had a mandate from 'Arafat, the trust between 'Arafat and the delegation was undermined, especially since on the eve of the Moscow meeting the Saudis also turned to Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and told him that if he comes to Moscow and enters the hall, he will receive massive Saudi support. As will be recalled, al-Shafi rejected the Saudi call out of hand, and did not leave for Moscow even after 'Arafat ordered him to go but not to enter the hall where the deliberations were being held.

Virtually at the same time that the meeting with King Fahd was taking place, King Husayn began preparations for his trip to the White House, and in the prior contacts he held with Secretary of State Baker the issue of sovereignty over the territories was raised: Palestinian or Jordanian. At Baker's initiative, King Husayn asked 'Arafat if he would be prepared to recognize Jordanian sovereignty on at least the West Bank as a basis for the establishment of the confederation. The move was aimed at preparing Jordan as a claimer of territories from Israel on the basis of Resolution 242. 'Arafat did not think twice. When forced to chose between the Palestinian delegation and Jordan, he preferred Jordan. He sent his close aide, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, to Amman with an affirmative answer. Husayn did not make do with that and demanded clear-cut decisions on the issue of the authorized PLO organizations. 'Arafat convened the Central Council, but there it became clear that Saudi Arabia had managed to win over most of the group encircling 'Arafat, such as the Hasan brothers and Mahmud 'Abbas, and indirectly Faruq Qaddumi, who is close to Syria, which is an ally of Saudi Arabia and like it takes a negative stand toward 'Arafat (despite the sharp differences between the two on implementing the security arrangements in the Gulf).

The question is why 'Arafat at first supported the delegation if he had reason to suspect that it was meant to develop as a power base against him since he knew about the links between the delegation and pro-Saudi circles in Fatah, such as Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], or the "London forum" of his critics during the Kuwait war?

The answer to that shows that what up to now was a suspicion has now been proved correct: 'Arafat's support for the delegation was temporary, aimed at serving a specific purpose. 'Arafat, who knew about Fahd's interest in the delegation, hoped that in the final analysis his support for the team would help defrost his relations with Fahd. For the purpose, a senior member of the delegation was given a mandate to meet with King Fahd.

During his visit to Amman, and especially after King Husayn saved his life (by insisting that he be operated on in time) 'Arafat was attentive to the king's remarks that "Saudi Arabia is a lost case," and that there is no point in trying to please it. On the contrary, it should be repaid in kind. The Saudi courting of the delegation decided its fate. Instead of negotiations with the delegation, Jordan and the PLO decided on a new policy, a return to the prior PLO-Jordanian partnership.

'Arafat's kiss was the kiss of death: It knowingly wiped out the delegation's role in the political process. Those with a sharp eye had observed warning signs of that. Al-Husayni removed from documents the heading "Palestinian Delegation—Executive Office," equivalent to the PLO's "executive" committee, and replaced it with a personal heading: "Faysal al-Husayni's Office." The

PLO also demanded al-Husayni cease his efforts to purchase a large building in East Jerusalem to house the Palestinian delegation.

One can ask why al-Husayni attended the ceremony marking the end of the Palestinian delegation with open eyes? The answer is, that in the delegation's disastrous situation, 'Arafat made an offer he could not refuse. After having it out with members of the PLO's Central Council, al-Husayni found that most of the PLO in general, and Fatah in particular, do not support the delegation's independence. The pressure on 'Arafat "to mend the path adopted by the talks" by changing the delegation's composition was strong, and 'Arafat's chances of keeping the present composition were minimal. Al-Husayni and his friends faced a stormy council and some of the outright opponents to the delegation sent them threatening leaflets.

A study of the various Palestinian and Jordanian leaflets on the Israeli elections show a clear preference for Rabin over Shamir. Hanan 'Ashrawi, for example, said that Shamir does not want peace, and that although Rabin has "half-baked solutions," his intentions about the interim period are serious. Al-Husayni's remarks at a news conference he convened in his home on the eve of the kisses with 'Arafat, were in a similar vein, although less blunt "so as not to intervene in the Israeli elections." Jordan Television got senior commentator Ghazi Sa'idi [name as published], to use prime time to call on Israeli Arabs to use their right to vote to prevent the establishment of a right-wing or national unity government. Abu-Mazin used his influence to unite the two Arab parties—the Arab Democratic Party and the Progressive List for Peace [PLP]—with HADASH [Israel Communist Party] so as not to lose any votes, and when that failed he called on Muhammad Mi'ari, the PLP leader, to bolt the race so that his votes would not be wasted if he does not win the minimum number for a single Knesset seat. 'Arafat had a different opinion, and he canceled Abu-Mazin's call, thereby revealing another side of the differences between him and other senior PLO officials. Abu-Mazin, by the way, was also absent from the Amman kissing ceremony. The one who was there, and not by accident, was 'Abd-Rabbuh, the one who had brought 'Arafat's affirmative answer to King Husayn.

In principle, Jordan and the PLO prefer Rabin to head the government in Israel. Nevertheless, they do not want Rabin to fulfill his declarations that he will focus on political negotiations with a Palestinian delegation because they fear that after the elections there will be link up—which will be dangerous to them and at their expense—of Rabin, Saudi Arabia, and the delegation. Jordan and the PLO fear that while getting rid of the Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, Saudi Arabia will be prepared to use its influence on the delegation even for a confederation with Israel, and Rabin has already quoted the views of people in the delegation on that.

While Abu-Mazin supports a peace government in Israel, and even intervened behind the scenes to try to have it set up, it seems that 'Arafat's stand is different. We should recall that Fatah tried twice to carry out attacks on Israel's shores—once on the eve of the Madrid talks through a gang that was meant to land at Nahariyya beach and the second time, on the very eve of the elections, in Elat. 'Arafat is worried that the political process is aimed, among other things, at getting rid of the "historic PLO," and he, unlike the Fatah moderates, prefers a right-wing government that will bring the political process to a halt and destroy Israeli-U.S. relations. The political ruin of the Palestinian delegation is the initial "dividend" of Shamir's policy.

Almost all members of the Palestinian delegation have already come out against the confederation idea except Hanan 'Ashrawi. Therefore, it is no coincidence that it is she of all the delegation members who serves as a target for vicious attacks by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which is even making her a target for assassination. The excuse for the attack is the interview she gave to an American women's magazine in which she spoke about the status of women in Islamic society. It seems that the preachers in the mosques have nothing more important to trouble themselves with than Hanan 'Ashrawi, whom they compare to Salman Rushdie, author of the Satanic Verses. It is possible that 'Ashrawi was not sufficiently careful in her remarks in the United States. The main point, however, is not what she said, but the gravity with which Saudi Arabia wishes to foil the confederation between its two big enemies. From American sources it is clear that Saudi Arabia's subversion does not please them at all and they are to make their views known in Riyadh. It is reasonable to assume that Washington will regard what is happening in Amman as an outcome of Saudi Arabia's policy in the territories.

The appearance on the scene of Radwan Abu-'Ayyash's group comes against the background of the destabilization of the delegation's status. It appears that Fatah's strong personalities concentrated behind Abu-'Ayyash thereby underlining that al-Husayni's group does not express the views of Fatah or the PLO, but was a nucleus of an independent body.

Shamir did not give the delegation a chance, and its status was undermined. Rabin, if elected prime minister, will quickly discover that it will be difficult to turn back the wheels of history and that even the peace initiative that Shamir crippled in the national unity government will be very hard to resuscitate.

The differentiation between PLO-Tunis and PLO-territories is correct. The advantages of proximity to an active and vital public, which does not always agree with PLO-Tunis, can be implemented, but PLO-Tunis cannot be treated as though it does not exist. Before the next prime minister—whoever it is—tries to rehabilitate the delegation's status, if that is still possible, he must realize that between it and PLO-Tunis there is a link—of life and death—and not become overly excited about each meeting between the leadership of the two parts of the Palestinian people, inside and outside the territories.

Sharon: Delegates Should Not Return

TA2206150592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Minister Arie'l Sharon has said that the Palestinians who conferred with 'Arafat should not be allowed back in Israel, just as members of terrorist organizations are not. In any event, it must be clear that they cannot be party to any negotiations whatsoever with Israel and that the Palestinians will have to form another delegation to the negotiations, the minister said. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Sharon made these remarks in the course of a tour of Kafr Kama.

'Arafat Thanks HADASH Knesset Member

TA2306102492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] Knesset Member Hashim Mahamid received a letter today from PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, thanking him for the get-well wishes Mahamid sent him after his operation. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that in his letter, 'Arafat wishes success to the struggle for a just peace for the sake of both peoples.

Negotiator 'Very Sorry' About Picco's Resignation

TA2106124992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jun 92 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] "Giandomenico Picco's resignation will undoubtedly create a hiatus in handling the issue of Israeli POW's and MIA's in Lebanon. There is no question that handling of the issue will suffer, if only because a new man will assume the job and he will have to devote a long time to studying the issue of the Israeli prisoners." This was the initial reaction yesterday by Uri Lubrani, the head of the Israeli negotiating team on the Israeli POW's and MIA's, to Giandomenico Picco's resignation.

Picco's announcement came only one day after he had promised to pursue efforts for the release of the Israelis.

Uri Lubrani also told HA'ARETZ that he was very sorry Picco was leaving the job. "Picco had real motivation to attempt to make progress on the Ron Arad affair."

Sources in the defense establishment and other Israeli officials dealing with the issue of the Israeli POW's and MIA's were amazed by Giandomenico Picco's announcement. Picco had made great efforts on behalf of the Israeli prisoners. [passage omitted]

Defense Sources 'Surprised' at Resignation

TA2106044692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Defense sources were surprised by UN envoy Giandomenico Picco's resignation announcement, and said that he had a genuine wish to advance the release of Ron Arad. A senior defense source told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that Picco had gained a great deal of experience and his replacement will have to work hard before establishing a similar network of ties. Israel believes that Picco resigned due to difficulties in his relations with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali.

State Prosecutor, Attorney Deny Deportees Deal

TA2106092092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] The state prosecutor's office knows nothing about an offer to the 11 prospective deportees from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to leave voluntarily for three years while being allowed to pay annual visits, our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports from the Supreme Court. Jawad Bulus, attorney for the four deportees from Judaea and Samaria, said he does not know about such a proposal. Attorney Furayh Abu-Middayn said at the weekend that the defense establishment made an offer of such an arrangement to the deportees and that three agreed to it.

Military Judge Hands Down Nine-Year Sentence

TA2206153892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jun 92 p A5

[Report by Eytan Rabin and ITIM]

[Excerpts] The military court in Nabulus, with Colonel Eli Zicherman presiding, yesterday sentenced 20-year-old Mahir Ramiz Shakir al-Masri, a local senior Fatah activist, to nine years in prison after convicting him of murder and of opening fire on and ambushing Israeli troops.

This is the first time that a single military judge has meted out the maximum sentence to a terrorist. Until six months ago a single judge could mete out five-year prison sentences, and only a three-judge panel could mete out stiffer sentences. However, the law was recently amended and a single judge may now sentence defendants from the territories to up to 10 years in prison. [passage omitted]

There were several incidents in the territories yesterday in which four people were wounded: two on the West Bank and two in the Gaza Strip. Two stone-throwing youngsters were wounded in Idnah near Nabulus during the dispersal of rioters. They were taken to a hospital in Nabulus with moderate wounds. Two locals were wounded in Rafah in the course of various incidents in the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Gaza Workers Allowed To Leave for Work in Israel

TA2106160392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Approximately 21,000 Gaza Strip workers left for Israel today [21 June]. For the first time since the closure was imposed, they were also permitted to depart in taxis.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that matriculation exams began in the Gaza Strip today under the supervision of 13 Egyptian teaching inspectors. For the first time, 75 detainees from the Gaza Strip were allowed to take their exams in prison.

'Terrorists' Fire at Gaza Strip Hotel; 2 Injured

TA2206104792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Excerpt] A policemen and a civilian employed by the police were slightly injured by terrorist gunfire in Gaza this morning. The two were taken to Barzilay Hospital. Our correspondent Moti Amir has more details:

The terrorists fired at the policemen from a moving car. As said, a policeman and a civilian employed by the police sustained minor gunshot wounds in the legs and were taken to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. Gaza residents reported that there were three armed men in the car and that after the attack, the car took off in the direction of the al-Shati' refugee camp on the Gaza coast.

It should be noted that the terrorists' target was the Hof 'Aza area hotel, usually occupied by policemen. They opened fire a few minutes before 1200 [0900 GMT], when policemen crowd the dining room for lunch. An initial report reveals that one of the policemen at the scene fired a Galil rifle at the terrorists, but they escaped unscathed. Army, Border Police, and police forces were summoned to the scene, and they are searching the area in pursuit of the terrorists. [passage omitted]

Joint Delegation Meets To Discuss Peace Talks

JN2206144592 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] A meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry today for the members of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir.

At this meeting, positions were coordinated on the issues being discussed by the two tracks—the Jordanian and the Palestinian—in the peace negotiations. The prospects for the next stage of the bilateral negotiations, which will be held in Rome, as well as all issues pertaining to various aspects of the peace process in general, were discussed.

Will Meet 'Any Israeli Government'

JN2206180492 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] The joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations held a meeting at the Foreign Ministry at noon today. The session was attended by Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir.

At this meeting, positions were coordinated on the issues being discussed by the two tracks—the Jordanian and the Palestinian—at the peace talks. The prospects for the next stage of bilateral negotiations, which will be held in Rome, as well as all issues pertaining to various aspects of the peace process in general, were discussed.

At the end of the meeting, Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, official spokesman of the Jordanian delegation, and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation, talked with our political affairs correspondent and journalists.

[Begin recording] [Al-Mu'ashshir] We talked about several issues. We now are at the threshold of a new stage, the stage of negotiations in Rome. This requires long and continuous negotiations and an approach different from that in Washington. Hence, it is necessary for advance and extensive coordination. The atmosphere of the meeting was very positive, and it was agreed that several rounds of advance and continuing coordination will be held. It also was agreed to form committees dealing with different issues to discuss various aspects of this coordination.

[Political affairs correspondent Kassab Samawi] Dr. Marwan, you said another approach to coordination between the two delegations. What do you mean by this?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] I say another approach, first, with regard to the negotiations as we have become used to them in the past; namely, to have very short rounds of negotiations preceded by long periods in which there are no negotiations. In our view, this should be changed. Semi-continuous negotiations should be held in Rome, and these negotiations should be extensive to allow us to reach what we hope to reach and to allow us to have serious negotiations. As for coordination, Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is very good. When I talk about approach, I mean to say that this coordination will be intensified much more than it has been in the past, and that there will be advance meetings to prepare for the next rounds of negotiations.

[Samawi] Have the latest developments, such as the Israeli elections, been tackled at today's meeting?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Our position on the Israeli elections is clear; namely, that we are prepared to speak with any Israeli Government. We speak with the government and not with any specific party or quarter in Israel. There are clear conditions for the peace process as contained in the letters of invitation, and there are clear principles, most important of which is Resolution 242. Everyone knows this. We entered the peace process on the basis of these principles and conditions regardless of any Israeli Government.

['Ashrawi] We presented a report on what has been accomplished so far by the Palestinian working committees. We also discussed the Palestinian strategy, as well as the Jordanian strategy and Jordanian policies, for the next stage. We agreed on a mechanism for continuing this coordination and to divide this coordination into specific topics. We also agreed on media issues. We agreed on Arab coordination, which was evaluated and discussed; it was agreed to further activate this coordination. We also agreed on issues concerning international and diplomatic contacts. The talks were comprehensive and detailed at the same time.

[Samawi] Dr. Hanan, are there new circumstances that necessitated holding this meeting now?

['Ashrawi] No, this is all part of the coordination steps which began before Madrid. These steps are being developed. We cannot say that there is something in particular or that there is a new development. It is a continuation of coordination with the aim of activating, developing, and firmly establishing this coordination.

[Samawi] Are the Israeli elections one of the reasons, for example?

['Ashrawi] No, we have a Palestinian strategy and a Jordanian strategy, which have their own driving force and requisites. As I have said repeatedly, the Israeli election is one of several factors. The elections do not constitute the main theme of Palestinian-Jordanian concern. The Jordanian-Palestinian concern is based on Palestinian-Jordanian requisites and strategy and on Palestinian and Jordanian rights and demands. It is not based on external considerations. The Israel elections concern the Israelis. We have negotiated and we will negotiate with any government the Israelis elect. [end recording]

Delegation Aiming for Self-Government

JN2306072192 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jun 92 pp 1,2

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Excerpts] Amman—Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to peace talks with Israel Monday launched preparations for the next round of negotiations with a reaffirmation of their commitment to the peace process on the eve of Israel's general elections.

Discussed during Monday's two-and-a-half-hour meeting were strategies for the bilaterals as well as multilateral negotiations, spokespersons for both sides said.

The spokespersons said that their commitment to the peace talks were based on the principles of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and that they would negotiate with any Israeli government in power. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the two sides meet again today. The relationship between the two sides becomes stronger as the negotiations proceed.

"The atmosphere of the meeting as well as the actual content and form of coordination between us and the Palestinian side are excellent," Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said. "And as the negotiations proceed, we find everyday that this coordination is becoming stronger."

Dr. 'Ashrawi said joint working groups would continue to meet regularly to discuss the bilateral and multilateral talks. She added that there "will be a coordinating committee to deal with specific suggestions that came out that need further explorations."

She described Jordanian-Palestinian coordination as "very special, very detailed, very intensive and quite productive."

However, the spokespersons said that coordination among the Arab parties involved in the peace talks was lacking and that the joint delegation decided to work together to improve Arab coordination.

"We both agreed that we would work together very intensively in order to improve qualitatively the nature of Arab coordination," Dr. 'Ashrawi said, adding that Arab coordination "can bear a lot of improvement."

Palestinian and Jordanian negotiators have privately complained that Syria was not coordinating sufficiently with the joint delegation, something that was clear with the Syria boycott of the multilateral talks.

A Palestinian official, who did not want to be identified, told the Jordan Times that while the Jordanians and Palestinians were anxious to achieve progress in the negotiations, Syria was in no hurry to do so.

"We need to show our people that there is progress one year after the negotiations started in Madrid," the Palestinian source said. "And in order to reach this goal, intensive Arab coordination is needed and the Syrians don't feel it is necessary to speed up matters."

The Palestinian delegation is aiming to achieve a Palestinian interim self-government arrangement, (PISGA) in October, as stipulated in the American letter of assurances issued prior to the launching of the peace process.

The sources said that if a PISGA was not achieved within the time frame of next October, the leadership and the delegation would lose credibility among the Palestinian people and that the opponents to the peace talks would have a "real weapon to fight us with." [passage omitted]

Paper Criticizes U.S. Attempts To Harm Iraq

JN2006124092 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Jun 92 p 2

["Issue and Opinion" column by Salamah al-'Ukur: "Why Do They Want To Strangle Iraq?"]

[Text] It seems that President Bush has sensed that he is losing his popularity and the chance of winning the U.S. presidential elections. That is why he began to look for new battles to wage outside the United States in an effort to titillate the voter's sentiments and to turn their heads by replaying the tune of the glories of the only superpower in the world. This is particularly so given that he has lost some of his credibility after waging losing battles on the domestic front to remedy the deteriorating economic situation. It seems that President Bush has chosen to wage his electoral battle through Iraq and Jordan.

To hit two birds with one stone—placating the Zionist organizations and securing Jewish votes, or some of them—he has resorted to the most inhuman methods of strangling Iraq and starving its people. U.S. planes have set fire to wheat and barley crops in northern Iraq in an effort to deprive the country from attaining food security for its people.

This is an odious act and one denoting ugly fascism and a deep-rooted hostility to the Arab individual. What is more harmful is the fact that the U.S. Administration seeks to tighten the siege on Iraq by encircling the Jordanian-Iraqi borders with U.S. inspection committees and guards to prevent food and medicines from entering Iraq and to deprive the Iraqis of the means of subsistence.

The U.S. Administration is exerting unbearable pressure on Jordan to compel it to accept such a policy.

The dreadful thing is that these U.S. pressures coincide with an escalation of the rabid political and media campaign by the Arabs of the land of thirst, salt, and burnt oil against Jordan. They hope that they can isolate it on both the Arab and international levels, as well as weaken its steadfastness, its national unity, and the Jordanian people's rallying around their Hashemite leadership, thus forcing it to step from the trench of its nation into that of the enemies.

The Jordanian leadership and people, however, are fully alert to all the chapters of the Hafar al-Batin conspiracy against this nation. They realize the evil intentions that the Arabs who draw their strength from the new Crusaders harbor toward the honest Arabs in Jordan, Iraq, Yemen, the Sudan, and everywhere in the Arab homeland.

After seeing that Iraq is still strong, steadfast, and capable of overcoming its tribulation and rising above its wounds, we know that hatred is gnawing at the guts of those who conspired against Iraq and who worked to destroy it and exterminate its people.

The Hafar al-Batin Arabs and their masters have witnessed how the infrastructure in Iraq has been rebuilt in less than a year by the Iraqis themselves. They also note that Iraq is regaining its vitality with lightning speed. For this reason, they have escalated their machinations and have tried to strangle it and to harm Jordan, which is the lung through which the fraternal Iraqi people breathe. The U.S. policy to strangle Iraq by encircling the Jordanian-Iraqi borders and by deploying inspection and supervision teams along these borders in an effort to prevent the means of subsistence from entering Iraq is a new chapter but one of the most odious and fascist chapters of the Hafar al-Batin conspiracy. Based on this premise, such a despicable and wicked policy should be confronted and foiled. It should also be mentioned that this evil approach will never increase President Bush's chances of success in the forthcoming elections.

President Sends Message to Hashemi-Rafsanjani

NC1906143292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has sent a message to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressing his eagerness to strengthen bilateral cooperation for the benefit of both nations and the region as a whole.

Al-Hirawi Thanks Syria's al-Asad on Hostages

NC1806114492 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi contacted Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad today and thanked him for his efforts in ending the hostage issue, which has affected Lebanon for a long time.

Diyab Sees Economic Gains in Hostage Release

NC1806103092 Paris AFP in English 0954 GMT 18 Jun 92

[By Michel Moutot]

[Text] Beirut, June 18 (AFP)—Lebanon hopes to reap economic benefits from the release Wednesday of the last Western hostages, Finance Minister As'ad Diyab told AFP Thursday.

He said the end of the hostage crisis was an "important indicator of an improved (financial) situation in Lebanon, which is struggling with economic hardships brought on by 16-years of civil war. "It is necessary now for foreign countries to send delegations to Beirut and see for themselves the situation here," Diyab said. "We hope and believe that this (hostage release) will have a positive impact on the economy. "What we need first is a good dose of optimism," he added.

As news of the release of Germans Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner gathered momentum Tuesday, the European Community's Executive European Commission announced plans to renew financial cooperation with Beirut. The third and fourth financial protocols for Lebanon worth a total of 166 million ECUs (216 million dollars, including a 159-million-dollar loan from the European Bank of Investment) could soon be implemented, an E.C. spokesman said in Brussels. He also announced that a European delegation would visit the Lebanese capital as early as next week.

Europe froze financial assistance to Lebanon at the request of Germany amid efforts to release Struebig and Kemptner, who were seized in May 1989 by the pro-Iranian Mujahidin for Freedom in exchange for the release of two Lebanese Shiite Muslims imprisoned in Germany on charges of terrorism.

A Lebanese Government source said after the pair were released Wednesday that Beirut expected Bonn to defend Lebanon's cause at the European Community, notably its needs for funds to rebuild the war-torn country. German Chancellery Minister Bernd Schmidbauer said Wednesday that Europe and Germany were looking forward to better cooperation in the future.

Lebanese Defence Minister Michel al-Murr meanwhile said the return of European funds to Beirut would help redress the local currency which has lost more than 50 percent of its value against the dollar over the past four months. Politically, officials also hope the release of the last Western hostages will have a positive impact on strained U.S.-Lebanese relations, including the lifting of a ban by Washington on travel to Beirut.

World Bank Urges Budget Deficit Reduction

NC2106084392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] A World Bank official who supervises the Lebanon program has said that the bank is ready to arrange for another meeting of creditor nations this (?fall) if the Lebanese Government initiates a concrete tax reform program.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH newspaper, he stressed that what is more important is that the Lebanese Government work to reduce its huge budget deficit, which has caused inflation rates to soar to an annual average of 3,000 percent.

The World Bank believes Lebanese and foreign investors are likely to return to Lebanon once efforts to reduce the budget deficit succeed.

Minister Samahah on Meeting With U.S. Ambassador

NC1906130692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents after his meeting with U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker in Beirut on 19 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Samahah] The U.S. ambassador's visit was one of protocol to get acquainted with the information minister. We discussed many issues of interest to the Lebanese Government, our bilateral relations, and the regional situation in general and in the south in particular. I expressed the Lebanese Government's concern over what is happening in the south and over the incidents that took place last night and this morning. The U.S. ambassador reiterated the U.S. position conveyed to the Lebanese Foreign Ministry and Lebanese officials and promised that further efforts will be made with the occupation forces to stop their aggressions against Lebanon and implement Resolution 425.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, have you discussed current issues such as the elections, withdrawals, and the return of the displaced people?

[Samahah] All the issues were discussed, without this reaching any point of interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, did the U.S. ambassador ask you to convey a message to the government regarding the situation in the South in order to calm the situation?

[Samahah] The issue of the South was discussed in detail. He did not ask me to convey any message. He is an ambassador to Lebanon and can approach the suitable department in this regard, which is the Lebanon Foreign Ministry.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, have you received any information from him about a possible Israeli military action in the South, especially in view of the forthcoming Israeli elections?

[Samahah] He is not likely to convey to me information on whether Israel has such intentions. In evaluating the situation in the South and the Israeli position prior to the Israeli elections, we think that for domestic reasons Israel is likely to escalate and perhaps it will escalate the situation in the South because the Israeli Government needs this for election purposes. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, has the discussion dealt with the issue of reopening of the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon, particularly now that the hostage issue has been resolved?

[Samahah] This issue is discussed with the Lebanese Foreign Ministry and not with the Lebanese information minister.

Prime Minister on Israeli Elections, Resistance

JN2106163192 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 20 Jun 92 pp 1, 21

[Excerpts] Beirut—In an interview with AL-ITTIHAD, Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh has said that parliamentary elections will be held as scheduled next summer. He affirmed that the Lebanese security organs are able to ensure freedom and honesty for the elections. He denied that there is any U.S. reservation about holding the elections on their scheduled date.

Al-Sulh said that Lebanon soon will witness economic progress as a result of positive EC steps and Arab replies to the Lebanese Government's contacts on the subject of aid.

The national reconciliation plan, he noted, is proceeding along successfully in breaking down the psychological barriers left by the war. He asserted that the government is doing its best to provide a suitable climate for the realization of this plan.

Responding to a question about the preparations being made for the parliamentary elections and the opposition of some internal and external parties to holding them, al-Sulh said: The Lebanese agree on the principle of holding the elections; however, views differ on some of the details. The government is seeking to return the displaced people to their cities and villages as soon as possible. This return may be realized before the elections are held, given that consultations on this subject have been positive. [passage omitted]

When asked about the situation in the south, Prime Minister al-Sulh said: The Israeli enemy is trying to pressure us by targeting civilians in the South and by destroying villages and cities there. However, we will not change either our positions or our general political options. We will not change our decision to view the resistance as a legitimate right as long as the occupation continues. We have told everyone that we will not disarm the resistance before the occupation has been fully eliminated.

Responding to a question on the results of the Israeli elections, Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh stated: Lebanon will not wait for the results of these elections. There is, however, a national and a pan-Arab policy for the government which it will maintain. The government undertakes full coordination with Syria and other Arab countries with regard to the peace negotiations because Lebanon supports any unified Arab position toward the pan-Arab issue.

He added: We have stressed repeatedly that implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 is the prelude to any progress in peace negotiations between Lebanon and Israel. The Lebanese Army is able to maintain calm in the border areas and to spread state authority. Returning to the Israeli elections, Shamir's government is trying to improve its position by committing aggressions against Lebanon. This is something that should not be allowed to continue, especially since the Security Council and the countries that advocate peace and human rights are watching what is happening. [passage omitted]

Vatican Cardinal Departs Beirut 21 Jun

NC2106120392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Vatican Cardinal Silvestrini left Beirut today at the end of a week-long official visit. During the visit, he discussed preparations for a synod on Lebanon. [passage omitted]

* Iran Said To Ask Shiites To Join Elections

92P40211A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jun 92 p 2

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Reports coming from Tehran and Beirut yesterday mentioned that Iran has requested the sons of the Shiite factions in Lebanon to overcome their political differences and participate in the next general elections on the "unified list of candidates."

A senior Iranian source said yesterday, "we want the Shiites of Lebanon to assume a vanguard role in the political developments of their country." The source added: "This means that they are present in all arenas, among them the parliament and the government." The new Iranian position was transmitted to the Shi'ah in Lebanon via President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's special envoy Hoseyn Takhti during a long meeting in Beirut with Nabih Barri, leader of the Amal Movement. The sources said that the Hizballah leaders had been fully informed of the details of the new Iranian position. The Hizballah secretary general, Hasan Nasrallah, was informed of the new Iranian policy on his trip to Tehran last month.

Iran will coordinate its new policy with Syria through the Iranian ambassador in Damascus Hasan Akhtari.

Hizballah Leader, Amal's Birri Meet 18 Jun

NC1906082992 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] As part of their periodic meetings to coordinate positions, Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah and Amal Movement Leader Nabih Birri met last night. Hizballah Political Bureau Chairman Haj Husayn al-Khalil attended.

Nasrallah and Birri reviewed the current developments, especially in southern Lebanon, and the Zionist attacks against peaceful citizens, which have not even spared places of worship.

Agreement was reached on adopting further steps to coordinate a number of issues and to formulate a unified position against the challenges and imminent dangers.

Hizballah Delegation Meets With Fatah Groups

NC1806113592 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] A delegation from the Hizballah Political Bureau, made up of Political Bureau member Shaykh Khadr Tulays and Political Bureau head Abu-Rami [name as heard] visited the headquarters of Fatah-The Revolutionary Council Movement [Fatah-RC]. Fatah-RC official spokesman Walid Khalid met them.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed developments regarding the Israeli escalation in the south and western al-Biqa'. The talks also dealt with the conspiracy to eliminate the Palestine question. The conferees affirmed the need to coordinate the activities of the intifadah in occupied Palestine and the resistance in southern Lebanon.

The Hizballah Political Bureau delegation also visited the headquarters of Fatah-The Intifadah Movement. They met with Muhammad Amin, the movement's secretary in Lebanon, Abu-Fadi Hammad, and Abu-Muhammad Walid. The conferees exchanged views on Palestinian affairs and developments regarding the Israeli aggression in the south.

Education Minister Meets Hizballah Delegation

NC1806101092 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] A delegation from the Hizballah Political Bureau, made up of Political Bureau deputy leader 'Ammar al-Musawi and Dr. Husayn al-Haj Hasan, the official responsible for educational mobilization, has visited Education Minister Dr. Zaki Mazbudi.

After the meeting, al-Musawi said: We congratulated Minister Mazbudi on 'Id al-Adha and briefly discussed the current political situation, especially the Israeli escalation in the south and the great pressure this places on officials and the public. We also affirmed that resistance is a legitimate right. It is the most basic task a person can perform because it reminds the international community that our land is occupied and that we must act to expel the occupier. We also stressed that any gap or fault in the Lebanese position will lead to more escalation, and America will put pressure on us. We asserted that we must unite to confront the occupation. Minister Mazbudi relayed his appreciation for the role of the resistance and affirmed its right to liberate the occupied national land as long as Israel refuses to implement Resolution 425.

Al-Musawi added: We also discussed various educational issues and affirmed the importance of developing and restoring credibility to official education, which was previously subject to conspiracies. We sensed the minister's desire that the Education Ministry perform its role and provide all the conditions necessary to educate people and give them a true national upbringing and education.

Iran's Hezbollah, Amal To Intensify Operations

LD2206151692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] The Hezbollah revolutionary movement and the Lebanese Amal movement reached new agreements to intensify anti-Zionist operations in the southern region of that country. According to an Islamic Republic News Agency report, the agreement was reached at a recent meeting between the Amal leader, Nabih Birri, and the secretary general of the Hezbollah revolutionary movement, Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah. During the meeting, important issues, including the anti-Zionist resistance, were discussed.

During this meeting, they stressed the need for reviving the headquarters for joint operations and more active cooperation with the Amal movement in the anti-Zionist struggle. They also reached agreements on ways of neutralizing the efforts of the seditious individuals who try to create discord between Hezbollah and Amal.

SLA Commander Questions Resistance in South

NC1906104592 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0730 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] South Lebanese Army Commander Staff Major General Antoine Lahd has asked: Why is there no resistance except in southern Lebanon? Why is there no resistance in the Golan and Jordan? Why is it that the South alone must fight Israel on behalf of all the Arabs? He added: Israel does not covet any inch of Lebanese territory nor any drop of its water, considering that more than 10 villages in the western sector are receiving drinking water from Israel. Maj. Gen. Lahd said this in the course of a speech he delivered yesterday during a tour of the eastern sector of the border area to extend congratulations on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha.

Lahd explained that the Israelis entered the south to expel the Palestinians and defend their northern borders from Palestinian terrorism. He expressed the hope that we will have a state capable of defending our borders in order to be able to tell the Israelis: You are welcome as our neighbors. He added: I am sure that when peace is established, the border area will not only prosper but will become everyone's focal point.

Regarding parliamentary elections, Lahd said: The time has come for the people of the border area to express their opinion so that officials will see that there are Lebanese people and villages here because they forgot them many years ago. I assure you, Lahd continued, that only what we want and what we think is in the interest of the people will take place.

Maj. Gen. Mikha Tamir, commander of the Israeli liaison unit which accompanied Lahd on his tour, affirmed that there are groups which are making every effort to undermine security and peace in the area. But they will not succeed because we are seriously working to defend the border area and northern Israel because peace and security are common objectives of the two areas, he said.

The delegation included Colonel Shlomo Hassun, Israeli head of civilian affairs, and Col. Okasha, head of civilian affairs in the eastern sector.

Arnun Residents Need 'Special' Travel Permit

NC2006143092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] The occupation authorities have told the leader of Arnun that a fixed checkpoint will be set up at the western entrance to the village and that residents will need a special permit to leave or enter the area.

Al-Sulh, Parliamentary Bloc View Election Issues

NC1806093692 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The Democratic Parliamentary Bloc, including Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh, met yesterday evening.

No statement was issued, but some of the participants said they discussed the current situation, especially amending the elections law, the date of elections, and the obstacles facing elections. The conferees also discussed the standard of living and the need to deal with the deteriorating situation and ways to clean up and energize the administration.

Expects Adoption of Bills

NC1806095292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh stressed to visitors the government's intention to hold parliamentary elections this summer. He expects the Chamber of Deputies to approve the new elections bill after what could be a heated debate.

He said that some deputies who previously demanded that the district be adopted as the electoral constituency changed their minds and are now demanding that the governorate be adopted. We are confused about what they want, he said, adding that adopting the governorate as the electoral constituency is likely to increase Lebanese unity.

He added that the decision to increase the number of deputies was the result of demands by Cabinet members for additional parliamentary seats for their communities.

Information Minister Comments on Media, Elections

NC2106084892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah said that the Information Ministry has no vacancies, because it has many employees and scant production.

He noted that media are not exclusive property but belong to the citizen, who has the right to know how the taxes he pays are used. Public funds should be disposed of properly and not squandered, he said.

In an interview with the Voice of Lebanon, Samahah said he is preparing to regulate transmission channels while preserving the individual's rights and freedom of expression but not according to the law of jungle.

He said there should be no dealings between the media and the public prosecutor, unless the media have broken laws, and stressed the importance of regulating the media in a civilized way.

Commenting about the elections, the information minister noted that boycotting is a democratic right and said that he prefers opposition from within. On those who oppose the elections, he said it is not certain that all opponents will continue their opposition.

Al-Shar' on Damascus Declaration, Peace Talks

NC2006110692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Istanbul, 20 Jun (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has emphasized that Egyptian-Syrian relations are the cornerstone for all Arab and Islamic solidarity. He described these relations as a guarantee for achieving security and stability in the Arab region and for establishing a genuine, just, and comprehensive peace for everyone. These relations, he said, are also the key to improving the Arab situation and reestablishing confidence among all Arab countries on realistic and firm bases.

In an interview with MENA today, he said that relations between Egypt and Syria guarantee that the entire Arab world will hold the Arab nation together, defend its rights, and tell others that it is no simple matter to (?encroach on) our interests and rights.

Commenting on the security aspect of the Damascus Declaration, he said security is not merely a military presence in the Gulf or the military strength of any country. He added: Security for our Arab countries is first and foremost linked to the people's preparedness for sacrifice, unity in our countries, and the citizen's feeling that his government is heading in the right direction.

Al-Shar' affirmed that if all provisions of the Damascus Declaration are applied, especially the political, economic, and security provisions, the declaration will reassure the citizens of all eight members states and the entire Arab world. Security, he said, means that this nation is still able to stand up, unite, and play an effective role in regional and international issues.

He added: We look at the Damascus Declaration from this perspective and do not perceive it as sending forces to the Gulf states. What is important is for the Gulf citizen to feel that his brothers are with him and for the citizen in Syria and Egypt to feel that his brothers in the Gulf stand by him. Thus, focusing on political and economic aspects is no less important than focusing security matters.

Al-Shar' noted that Syria formulates its policy according to interests based on historical and cultural dimensions among our Arab countries. He expressed his hope that the Damascus Declaration, if applied on the basis of interests relying on historical and cultural dimensions, will yield satisfactory results, whether in Egypt, Syria, the Gulf states, or the Arab world as a whole.

He said the Damascus Declaration member states exchanged views in Istanbul, and it emerged that our earlier impression concerning the postponement of the declaration countries' meetings was not accurate. He added: The Gulf brothers explained their problems, which led to the delay of the Doha meeting. They are ready to discuss seriously the implementation of the declaration. We agreed to hold the meeting in Qatar in September to implement the declaration's provisions.

Al-Shar' noted that this declaration is of vital interest to the Gulf states, Egypt, and Syria, and that it is not implemented in favor of one country at the expense of another. Instead, he said, there are common interests among all these countries.

Asked to assess the peace process, al-Shar' said: The only positive thing we have gained from the negotiations since the Madrid conference is exposing Israel's expansionist ambitions to the entire world. He noted that this is an important point because the Arab side or some Arab countries had been previously accused of not wanting peace. It has become clear to everyone, however, that the Arab countries want a just and comprehensive peace, that they are serious about reaching a settlement based on international legitimacy and the UN resolutions, and that Israel is the one which rejects peace and reiterates to the entire world that it is hostile to peace, al-Shar' added.

The Syrian foreign minister said the Arab side must never submit to Israel's extortion or give up its rights. He added: We should reject Israel's procrastination and announce to the entire world that at a time when we are declaring our serious desire for peace, we will not accept any submission or relinquish our rights or Arab territories.

Asked about the Arab role in the next stage, al-Shar' described the Arab situation as bad. He said that the Gulf war and its negative results dictate that Arab solidarity should be reconstructed in an effective manner to confront the challenges because we are in an era full of change. He said: If we do not take matters firmly in hand and unify our ranks and cooperate to confront the challenges, our national, pan-Arab, and Islamic interests will be threatened. Al-Shar' emphasized that the Arab world must build solidarity and achieve unity to confront Israel's intransigence.

Asked about the most important results of the Islamic foreign ministers' conference, which wound up its meetings two days ago, al- Shar' said that there were three. The first was discussion of the bloody and tragic events in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the need to halt them. He noted that the attacks on the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina constitute a challenge to Islamic countries and, consequently, we demanded that a cease-fire be declared immediately and that the aggressors withdraw in accordance with the Security Council resolutions.

The Syrian foreign minister said that the second and third matters concern the Palestine issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly the continuing Israeli attacks on south Lebanon. He said that the conference expressed particular concern about these attacks.

Al-Shar' went on to say: We, Arab and Islamic countries, must reiterate that international legitimacy must be respected, that Security Council resolutions must be applied to everyone, and that Israel should not be exempted from international law. Al-Shar' expressed the conviction that continued Arab and Islamic efforts definitely will produce rapid and encouraging results in this regard.

Al-Shar' Returns From Istanbul ICO Meeting

JN1906150892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus today after participating in the extraordinary session of the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] foreign ministers. The session concluded in Istanbul yesterday and issued a final communique dealing with the repeated Israeli attacks against Lebanon, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestine question, and holy Jerusalem, as well as the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The conference, which met 17-18 June, was attended by 38 states and representatives of the Arab League and the Nonaligned Movement.

Oil Minister Opens Seminar on Natural Gas

JN2006135792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Under the patronage of Prime Minister Mahmud al- Zu'bi, a regional seminar on developing, exploiting, and marketing natural gas up until the beginning of the 21st century opened at 1030 today. The seminar is being held in cooperation with the Oil and Mineral Resources Ministry, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia [ESCWA], and the UN Development Program [UNDP] in Damascus.

Dr. Matanyus Habib, oil and mineral resources minister, deputized for the prime minister. [passage omitted]

The oil minister made a speech at the opening ceremony in which he spoke about the importance of the issue to be discussed by the seminar; namely, studying, investing, and marketing natural gas. [passage omitted]

The oil minister asserted that the gas reserves discovered thus far in Syria represent only a very small portion of the expected reserves, because prospecting work was not completed in more than 20 percent of Syrian territory.

He added that international cooperation in the investment and exploitation of gas is a very pressing need at present so as to maintain the environment and human, animal, and plant life.

The minister called for keeping the specter of war away from our region, which is rich in oil and gas and which could explode at any moment because of the Israeli Government's intransigence and its constant rejection of the peace process.

He noted that any war in this part of the world would threaten a new environmental disaster, because gas and oil reservoirs might catch fire, as happened during the Gulf war, with worldwide negative repercussions. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH Views Israel's 'Twisted Logic'

JN2006063592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 20 Jun 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial appearing today under the headline "A Completely Twisted Logic," AL-THAWRAH newspaper reviews Israel's overall aggressive practices and the conditions it is imposing on international legitimacy in a clear attempt to obstruct stability in the region and to place obstacles before the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Last but not least, Israel has come up with the question of arms and armament—the discordant tone that it uses whenever it wants to test its status in the West and America and the care it enjoys there.

The paper explains that Israel rejects the idea that Syria should possess any weapon to defend itself, regardless of its type or range. Meanwhile, the number of U.S. weapons flowing into Israel exceeds that country's ability to absorb them in terms of quantity and quality. Likewise, all kinds of facilities are provided to Israel to enable it to make more than what it needs in conventional and nonconventional weapons.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that when Syria looks for a means to defend itself and its people from this heavily armed aggressive ghoul, Israel creates a great hubbub and threatens to set the region ablaze. This is because—according to the Israeli logic—Syria must not be able to disturb Israel in the smallest way as it practices aggression and expansion.

In its comment, AL-THAWRAH affirms that Syria is capable of defending itself with great efficiency and of containing shocks and threats in a manner that enables it to hold its head high. Syria fears no threats.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: It is important that the Arabs quickly realize the importance of solidarity, cohesion, and the mobilization of their potential in order to counter this logic of no-logic and to confront this double standard being applied to us. The Arabs are capable of doing so if they move. Will they move before it is too late?

'Urgent' Establishment of Stock Market Sought

JN2206161892 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 10 Jun 92 p 6

[By 'Ali 'Abbud and Salih al-Haylawi]

[Excerpt] As soon as Law No. 10 of 1991 on encouraging investment in Syria was promulgated, calls demanding the establishment of a stock market were made. The establishment of such a market has been supported by various quarters, which have contended that the establishment of limited, joint-stock companies requires the creation of a stock market to circulate the stocks of these companies.

The government, which responded positively to this demand or proposal when it was raised at the People's Assembly during the debates on Law 10, promised to study it in the future. In less than a year, however, the government has determined that the establishment of a stock market is an urgent need, especially since such a market can be expanded to deal with the stocks of other Syrian joint-stock companies.

It can be said that the draft bill on the establishment of a stock market was practically completed by mid-March, when a technical committee approved the draft's presentation to the Higher Council for Investment. The draft bill is now on the agenda of the Council, which will discuss it at its next meeting. If, as expected, the draft is approved by the Higher Council for Investment, it then will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for discussion and approval. If it is approved here, it then will be referred to the People's Assembly for discussion and enactment into law. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Interim President Views Staying in Power

LD2206214992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1630 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Address by Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the interim government of Afghanistan, to people of Nangarhar at a meeting with mojahedin commanders; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed ulema, elders of the tribes, leaders, commanders, mojahedin. May God's peace and blessing be upon you. I am proud that with his blessing, Almighty God has given ablity to the Muslim people of Afghanistan to fight and make jihad against a great superpower, against a great material power in the world, and today [words indistinct] in their free and liberated country. I congratulate you on the freedom of Afghanistan. I also congratulate you on the establishment of the Islamic state of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that I began my jihad 40 years ago, as it was said by Jenab-e Mowlana Saheb. I began my jihad in 1963-1964 when Daud Khan was prime minister. It is not a matter of pride, and a human being should not be proud of this fact. But as a matter of discussion I want tell you that thanks to God I have done jihad in this 40 years. The jihad of Afghanistan first began in Konar before I went there and then I made the declaration of jihad thanks to God. It has my signature under it and has been sent to 29 provinces and thanks to God the jihad [word indistinct].

Anyway, I promised Afghanistan from the beginning that if anything can be made from my skin, blood, and bone, then I am ready to give it to a mojahed. Once I proved this in practice when there was the alliance of three. The people from the International Red Cross hospital came to the alliance of three and said that a large number of mojahedin have been injured, the hospital was full, and there was not any blood for them. They asked everyone and no one was giving blood.

I told them I want first to give my blood to mojahed. When I was laying in a bed in the office of alliance in order to give my blood, a number of our officers and friends came and told me they will give blood. I told them no. I promised God that if blood is needed or if anything can be made from my flesh, then I am ready to offer. The doctor took several bags full of blood. [passage omitted]

My point, brother, is that at the present which this service which has been given to me. [sentence as heard] You are aware that at the Consultative Council which was held in Islamabad, in Rawalpindi [as heard] at the time of the withdrawal of the Soviets, all the world was saying that the mojahedin should form a government to take the place of [word indistinct]. Russians are now going. You know that a meeting was held and efforts were made from the U.S. to Pakistan that Mojaddedi should not become the head and other people were hoping the same. Whether it was from the prayers of [word indistinct] of God, or whether it was the blessing of spiritual people, I came to head the government. When I became the head, everyone was very surprised.

Praise be to God, we have always tried. When there is service we have been sincere. We do not have many weapons, not much money, and no other things. God has granted us sincerity, however, and we are at the service of the people and the nation. However, that was allocated for one year, but God left me for three years. When the talks were in Kabul, the United Nations was mediating, Najibollah announced that he was ready to transfer power to the mojahedin government. Then Najibollah was taken away—his comrades took him out. The previous Kabul government was telling us every day to send them an administration, a formation, a council, or a government in order to surrender power. For almost a month, 20 days, there were meetings day and night. The leaders did not agree with each other. Two or three would agree while the others did not. When they did not agree—it is known to comrades—I decided that I would not leave for Afghanistan the next day. They do not agree with each other. I will go to the service of the mojahedin—be ashamed of God and be ashamed of the people—now that the government is ready and jihad has succeeded. They are ready to surrender the government to us; we are not that manly to take charge!

I decided then, collected my clothing, and left in the morning. It was 2200 or 2400 when some commanders of Mawlawi Khales learned this. They came to me and asked if it was very urgent. When I asked what it is, they said are you going to Kabul tomorrow. I said yes, but how did you find out? Then they started pleading with me saying: For the sake of God, delay your departure tomorrow. We will talk with the leaders and will certainly arrive in agreement. I remained one day for their sake, one day, then I was delayed by the Government of Pakistan. After that I convened the leaders in the president's office in Peshawar. I told them that tomorrow is another day, it is the last day. If you can come up with a program or a plan, this will be very good, otherwise I am not going to stay any more. Sebghatollah is not (?going to be here). I am going to serve the mojahedin. It is a big shame before God and before the people. I sent my son previously, the head of the military there. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, was talking to them from Charikar saying for God's sake Hazrat Saheb do something soon, make something very quickly and come to Kabul because there is no (?fly) or policy [Mach or Mashi]. [sentence as heard] There are attacks on Kabul by some Khalqis and some others—you know who I mean—there were attacks and missiles. Many places were taken. This is the situation, he said, there is no (?fly) in Kabul, no one in Kabul. On the next day, however, there was a decision: I told him—this was decided in Sayaf's office—I told them that I was going for a funeral. I will return whenever you decide. I will sign it with closed eyes. When I came back they had made a proposal: You will be gone for two months then Ostad Rabbani will be gone for four months, etc. I did not even think about it. I wanted to go at once to Kabul and take power—then it will be the people of Afghanistan who should decide. It was that day that Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Saheb came on foot to Peshawar. I was very happy, praise be to God, the mojahedin came to an agreement. It is true that the prime minister of Pakistan tried hard to make us united and take power from Najibollah's unit. However, he came and summoned us to Governor House that afternoon for a news conference. He also came. We prayed the evening prayers together. He was very happy. When we were eating he asked me when I was going. I told him I am going tomorrow; I told him I collected my clothes and I am going. Sayaf said no, you should go on Monday—it was Friday evening. I told him Monday was too far away. It is urgent. They are telling us to go soon. However, we agreed upon Sunday. The Pakistani prime minister said that he will give us two military aircrafts, one plane so that all the council people could go with me. Anyway, that day we did not go because the airport was not okay. So at 2300 we decided to go by road tomorrow. We came thus, with blessing, by road. I was told that the road was very rough. I told them, no matter how it is—by God if I die—I will go. [passage omitted]

When we came to Kabul there was no electricity, no water, and no bread. The people said when they found a peace of bread they would cut it in pieces to give each of their children a portion, and the prices you know: one Pakistani rupee was 70 afghanis! With the blessing of God—my friends who helped me and members of the previous regime helped me, it is true—in a week's time the supply of electricity and bread resumed and prices also fell. The prices are still low. Had there not been fighting then the price would have fallen further by now. Guess how much would have been the exchange rate of an Afghani? And aid would have come to Afghanistan like a flood. Friends, the problem is that we are still creating trouble. Roads and other things perpetrate. It is this which has caused Afghanistan to be backward. Believe me that 40,000 tonnes of wheat, aid of the Government of Pakistan, is left there because we cannot transport it. There is now no flour in the silos. For this reason we cannot hand out flour to bakeries and to coupon holders. There are some goods in the northern region to be carried. I ask you that—this council, this Muslim nation of Nangrahar, the great Nangrahar, you mojahedin, elders—you do this way that the wheat we transport—this is my request of you—whether I am in power or not. [sentence as heard] We have to supply bread to these poor people, to supply these poor people, or they starve. So you take the responsiblity of road security. Or Nangrahar council and other friends should arrange for convoys in order that the goods reach Kabul safely. This will be a great help to this country and this people. There are 2 to 3 million people in Kabul. People from every tribe and the people of every region of Afghanistan live here. There are among them children, women, elderly people—any kind of people. This was one issue. Another issue is the thing they have done. They arranged that they would assume power in two months. I swear by the name of God that I do not make a false statement. I remember. We appointed acting ministers, power was assumed—all things—we gave security to the Ministry of Defense and we formed a security committee. But the security has not yet been ensured. Every night a house or two is burglarized, and the security has not been restored. My authority was that when I came over here I appointed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud as defense minister.

My other word is that the arrangement was such—the agreement they reached in Peshawar—I reveal it to you. They have hidden it. But he promised. I asked Sayaf to send a copy of the agreement for the sake of God. He said he would send it. By God he has not yet sent it. After a lot of effort we eventually got a copy 10 days ago. It was written by Sayaf himself. It is in his own handwriting. All leaders, except one brother, all were present and they signed it. It has clearly been written in its article two: it has been resolved that Ostad Rabbani will be presider of the provisional Islamic State of Afghanistan and leaders of the Leadership Council for four months. He will start work after two months of the power transfer is completed. It means that they do not have the right to come over earlier than two months and form a Leadership Council here. The Leadership Council's and Ostad Rabbani's work should have started two months later, we know it. We told them for God's sake, you form the Leadership Council now and pass resolutions. It cannot work like this; there are two months for that. You have put your signature on it. You have made a commitment. They did not concede. Therefore, they have breached, they have broken, the agreement twice. If full responsibility of this jihad council is given to me 40 times then I will take it, and as the embodiment of the state and president of this council, I will do those things. The two months are not over. They breached it. Okay brother, I tell you, you all know about the problem. Now the matter is that you ask that you tell me that my term to be extended. I will swear brothers—you may not believe me brother—given a directorship of an office no one will give it up. By Allah the presidency of state does not equal to the sajada [mystic term which means prayer mat]. I have inherited from my father. That is regality for me. I swear that I would not have accepted it had it not been for you. The truth is that if they, i.e., any of the leaders had the courage of coming to Kabul, by Allah, they would not have given me this opportunity so that I will be blessed with this honor.

This is the blessing of God that we—for the sake of the nation, for the sake of God, and for the sake of the homeland—we do not care about either our heads or goods. And our own family, by God, what hardships we have gone through—183 from my family have gone through—183 people! My orphans came with me from Peshawar to see when Pol-e Charkhi is opened. Our fathers will be here. The poor things, they came here and no one's father was here. Now there is rumor that they are here or there. However, they were taken away from their homes on the very first days. Anyway this sacrifice is for God, you have made sacrifices, we have made sacrifices—all the Afghans have made sacrifices. There is no family in Afghanistan that has not made a sacrifice. But for God's sake and, praise be to God, that these sacrifices were not wasted. First we hope that God will grant us in the next world and in this world also we succeeded—look this is Arg-e Shahi, this is the president's palace, could you come here before? [sentence as heard] Now you are sitting here like being here in your own home. You also ate here—the doors are open—for a long time we did not even prevent people from coming here with weapons. Every one with machine guns was coming here. In my office they sat with machine guns. I did not object. Let him, this is his house. He is my brother; if he kills me, it does not matter.

You know at that time they shot at my airplane. We went to Pakistan and when we came back they hit my aircraft with rockets! Some 20 people were with me in the plane. All those poor things, the little children—they could all have died. This was a miracle that God revealed. The whole world is surprised! How an aircraft could be hit by a missile and land calmly. How is it, all the world is surprised. It was your prayers, the prayers of the widows and orphans that God kept us. Of course God may be willing something, there may be some service that he wants me to do for the people. After that, when all comrades insisted that, if they are not leaving you in the air and the aircraft, would they leave on the ground? I agreed. Whoever comes, how do you know who they are—then it is important to disarm every one outside before coming here. By Allah, by God, up to that time I did not mind. So I tell you brothers that if you are asking me—if the whole world is asking me—all brothers of Afghanistan, be they men or women—a general came to me and told me: Hazrat Saheb please send a person to the houses in Kabul; by God, men and women are praying for you and that is God [words indistinct]. This is the blessing of God. I have no money or property, but sincerity—the people know that he is kindhearted. And I, with following Hazrat-e Rasul Akram, peace be upon him, when we came we declared general amnesty. Rasul Akram was in Mecca and when Mecca was conquerred, a number of Quraysh came to him and asked him what will be done to them. He told them you are a Karim brother, a Karim son and brother—no Karim's son, Karim's brother's son told him: Go, I have forgiven you all and have told Abusofyan that those who enter my house are safe. This saying which has been said by the best of mankind—why should we not say it? What I have said, all the leaders agreed that when we capture Kabul we should announce general amnesty. When I announced now all those who have killed 183 of my family, martyred them, those are alive, but they have been forgiven. Enough. I was imprisoned at the time of Daud Khan. I was in prison for four years and four months. These communists, two of those who had conspired against me, are still alive and I have forgiven them. If one does something then he stands by it like man. If God guided them, if they began on the path of God, then that will be a service to Islam, if they did not follow the path of God, then their next world be lost.

However, many problems happened and other things, but it is good, praise be to God, so far [words indistinct] we have come for security and not for war. But the problem is that the war is still going on. What attacks were carried out here in Kabul? People were destroyed; homes were destroyed. Now you also see houses in Kabul are robbed. Last night two house were robbed. Every day it is the same. They have killed Hindus. We are trying to establish security. If we punish a number of these, these murderers, these thieves, God willing, security will be established.

Brothers, I do not have the desire, I do not have the energy—by God I have become ill, I am in bits and pieces—I cannot [words indistinct]. I work for three or four hours and then I crawl on my chest. This is not in my hand. I cannot stick to the chair saying I will not leave it. Three or four days are left; I am going in four days. Again I tell you the Muslim nation, whoever you decide upon with whomever you stand, I will be the first to give Baya't. They have done this, broken the agreement. However, I wanted to make a Jerga in these three or four days—we will bring some people from some provincial councils.

God bless you that so many of you have come. I am puzzled how you came and why you came. I do not know where you have come from. I will bring together ulema, members of provincial councils [words indistinct]. This is your business, brothers. You know better. You convince them whatever you do. From my side it is resolute. I cannot stick to the office. By God I have inherited a beads line and a prayer mate; I prefer them on a kingdom. I have enjoyed honor. I was head of state for three and half years there [Pakistan], here also, praise be on God—everything is for God. Ostad Sayaf told me Hazrat Saheb you are going there for two months, you will receive the government and things like that. I said very well. I do not say anything that you have resolved. But I tell you this that you send Hazrat to be blown by a gun. Either this Hazrat will perish or he will open the way for us then we will come. Praise on God the way is open. The way open to anyone who wants to rule. With the blessing of God I tell you that if God restored security to Afghanistan then aid will arrive and Afghanistan will be rebuilt. Now is not the time for fighting. It is the time for peace, time for forgiveness, time for forebearance. We should abandon the hostilities. We should remove tribal, religious, regional, and lingual differences. There is nothing there. For the sake of God, get ready to reconstruct this country. If security is restored then aid will come to you like a lion. We have 130-140 mines. We have everything. We have iron. There is copper and gold. There is everything in this country. We know this. The Russians surveyed the country some years ago. We know this. Therefore it is necessary for Afghanistan to progress under the flag of Islam, under the flag of there is no God but Allah and Mohammad is his messenger. It will be a great blessing.

But we are still engaged against one another. We should now forget talks of formations. Now if we do anything then we shall do it for the nation and for the government. What is the use of formation talks? This is our wish; and I am, God knows, very pleased that you came and for your statements. I cannot thank you. May God reward you. I do not see myself as competent, but it is your good opinion. May God give me success. If I stay or not I will be at your disposal. Peace and blessing of God on you. [sentence in Arabic] [passage omitted]

Hekmatyar Asks Followers To March on Kabul

BK2206111892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the leader of the Hezb-e Eslami movement, Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar, has called for direct intervention by his supporters to end uncertainties over the country's political future. The AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY said Mr. Hekmatyar asked his followers to march on the capital, Kabul, to establish a strong Islamic government in Islamabad [as heard]. According to the agency, Mr. Hekmatyar accused the interim Afghan president, Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, of wanting to stay on in power when his term of office expires in six days time.

Meanwhile, Afghan officials have denied the report about the death of the former president, Mr. Babrak Karmal, and Uzbek militia commander, General Rashid Dostam, in a place crash. General Dostam talked to reporters and said that he is alive and if anyone does not believe it, he can come and see him. General Dostam spoke to reporters from the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif by radio. Earlier, reorts said that all the 14 passengers on board, including Dr. Karmal and General Dostam, were killed in a crash while flying from Mazar-e Sharif to Kabul.

Iranian Envoy Holds 'Very Positive' Talks

LD2206164492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Mr. Mir Mahmud Musavi, the Islamic Republic of Iran's special representative for Afghan affairs, has ended his visit to Kabul, which lasted several days. Yesterday, before leaving Kabul, he described his talks with high-ranking officials of the interim government and Afghan mojahedin laeders as very positive.

India

Test-Fired Rocket Lands in Village; No Casualties

BK1906160892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1511 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] New Delhi, June 19 (AFP)—No one was injured when a rocket test-fired from a launch site in eastern India went off course and landed in a village, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said Friday [19 June].

It said many local residents were panicked when the three-metre (10-foot) rocket fired from the Interim Test Range in Chandipur landed Thursday in a rice field in Tapsi village in Orissa state.

The rocket, of which no substantive details were available, caused a one-metre (40-inch) deep crater at the crash site, but no other damage, state government officials were quoted as saying.

India successfully launched an intermediate range ballistic missile from the same site on the Bay of Bengal coast May 29, but the test-firing failed to achieve the objective pinpoint manoeuvring and fell short of its target.

BJP Supports Front's Presidential Candidate

BK2206125692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has proposed the former deputy speaker of the Lok Sabha, Professor G.G. Swell, as the opposition candidate for presidential election. This was decided at a meeting of senior party leaders chaired by the party president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, in New Delhi this morning. The party vice president, Mr. Kishan Lal Sharma, told our correspondent that the decision was unanimous. He said Professor Swell had earlier met the BJP leaders to discuss the issue. It may be recalled that the National Front has already decided to nominate Profesor Swell for presidential election.

Armed Helicopter Project Fails After 20 Years

BK2306063092 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 14 Jun 92 p 9

[Text] New Delhi—The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), after struggling for more than 20 years over the project, has failed to produce an armed helicopter required by the defence services for the vital attack role in modern-day combat. The best that it has to offer, a helicopter which is still at the development stage, has been rejected both by the Army and the Air Force as too vulnerable in offence due to its bulk, slow speed and limited manoeuvrability.

In addition, the chopper is not capable of carrying an adequate number of missiles which renders it sub-optimal in anti-tank warfare for which it is primarily required.

The Navy on its part has suggested that it be completely excluded from the project as the helicopter does not possess anti-submarine warfare capability.

These alarming facts have been highlighted in an official document which the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament intends to take up in the near future.

As far back as 1970, HAL had embarked on an ambitious project to develop and manufacture an advanced technology multirole armed light helicopter (ALH) to succeed the existing Cheetah and Chetak fleets. This venture has now been reduced to the production of a limited utility helicopter suited mainly for logistic support.

While the production and induction of ALH was initially expected to commence from 1981-82, it was revised to 1986-87 in May 1979. The process, however, has been further delayed and the diluted version of the helicopter, as opposed to the multirole configuration projected throughout, is expected to be finally delivered only in 1994-95.

This inordinate delay has had serious implications for the nation's defence preparedness insofar as it has denied the defence services a suitable weapon system. As a substitute, the existing fleet of helicopters had to be deployed in roles for which they are not designed. Another consequence of the tardy progress of the project has been that the cost has risen from a modest Rs [Rupees] 35 lakh originally envisaged to a phenomenal Rs 9 crore per helicopter.

The project appears to have been problem-ridden from the very outset. A considerable amount of time was lost during the initial years because HAL was stuck with a single-engine model and did not switch over to the superior twin-engine variant till the mid-1980s even though the merits of the latter had been pointed out by the Air Force a decade earlier.

Referring to this delay, a Public Accounts Committee report to the seventh Lok Sabha in 1981-82 had commented that it was unfortunate that a technological gap was allowed to develop and the ministry failed to incorporate the advanced technology already available.

The multipurpose nature of the project, according to defence experts, was ill-conceived. In fact, Army headquarters had pointed out as early as 1978 that the ALH had been allotted too many roles. Of the three roles the ALH was expected to fulfil for the Army, the air observation post (AOP) deployment required a small and light helicopter for which the present Cheetah is considered adequate. Hence it was redundant in this regard.

Army headquarters had emphasised that it required at least two types of helicopters, one for the attack role which should carry two pilots and weapons payload and a second for the air assault/logistics support version with two pilots plus 10 combat troops. It is only this latter role that new helicopter is suited for. The Air headquarters, on the other hand, had stated that it required a small, light weight, fast, highly manoeuvrable helicopter primarily as an anti-tank weapons system.

HAL, in insisting that it could reconcile all these varying roles in a single craft despite the better judgment of the men in the field, has made a major faux pas that has cost the nation dearly.

Special Steel Produced for Defense Use

BK2306054692 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 17 Jun 92 p 13

[Excerpt] Bombay—Indian manufacturers are today producing specialised steel that was hitherto imported for fabricating the warships of the Indian Navy, the Union Minister of State for Steel, Mr Santosh Mohan Dev has said.

Addressing a news conference during his visit here on Monday, the Minister deemed it imperative to move towards self-reliance in the field of defence. He mentioned that import substitutions were necessary in such critical fields and the country had made encouraging progress in making resilient steel for army tanks as well.

He said such development would continue even if it annoyed those countries who were exporting such steels to us. He emphasised, however, that whatever grade of steel we produce would need to pass the most stringent quality controls before we put it on the market. [passage omitted]

Commentary Says U.S. Sanctions 'Hegemonistic'

BK2206111792 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Commentary by S.C. Bhutt, former director of All India Radio's General News]

[Text] A few weeks ago, the United States had failed in stopping the Russians from selling cryogenic engines to India for her space research program. The Russian Republic, struggling as it was against tremendous economic odds, chose to stand by its commitments to India, notwithstanding Washington's threat of withholding economic aid. After that failure of the American armtwisting, India successfully launched its ASLV [Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle] rocket as part of its space reserach program. That seems to have infuriated Washington into imposing fresh curbs on India. The Commerce Department of the United States has issued orders banning sales, except under its specific authorization, of materials that could be useful in India's ongoing space launch vehicle program.

The Cold War may have ended and Washington's main rival in the world, the Soviet Union, may have disintegrated, but habits die hard. So the United States continues to practice its strong-arm tactics. It cannot view with equanimity the economic and technological growth of other nations like India. It believes in its own hegemony and would like the world to revolve around Washington. So, the United States has continued to thwart or seeks to thwart India's space research program. How important it is for India to develop space technology for weather forecasting, telecommunications development, and the mapping of resources, an advanced nation like the United States cannot understand. For instance, space technology has helped India recently to establish that the green cover of the soil has actually increased—marginally, of course. This is contrary to the prevalent belief encouraged by amateur environmentalists that the green cover is thinning.

The United States has been known for taking a narrow, self-centered view of world events. In 1969, it helped disgruntled elements in Cambodia overthrow Prince Sihanouk. After 22 years were gone and millions of Cambodians were massacred by those who often received support from Washington, the wheel turned full circle. Washington had to help ensure the return of Prince Sihanouk at the helm in Cambodia. Likewise on Afghanistan, the United States piled the so-called mojahedin—holy warriors—with arms and cash to fight Dr. Najibollah's government. Everybody hopes peace would now prevail in Afghanistan, but only a highly sanguine person would say it does.

The American approach to the growth of technology in the developing countries is highly discriminatory, unjustified, and hegemonistic. India has strongly reacted to the latest sanctions by Washington. The official spokesman said in Delhi on Wednesday [17 June] that India would not be deterred by the U.S. pressure tactics from pursuing its peaceful research and development efforts in the area of space technology. By a coincidence, the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization—ISRO—Dr. U.R. Rao, was speaking in New York in a UN body on the very subject when the United States chose to impose its sanctions. Reacting vigorously, Dr. Rao said the American embargoes were unjustified and unreasonable. He pointed out that the cold war had ended and yet the United States was imposing sanctions against nations trying to develop their own technology for peaceful uses of space. For some time now, India has been striving to build bridges of friendship and cooperation with Washington. Despite such pressure tactics, India went ahead and conducted joint naval exercises with the section of the American Navy in the Indian Ocean. The bilateral talks held last week with the Americans in Delhi are another proof of India's mature outlook.

Commentary Views Russia-U.S. Accord

BK2306114992 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Commentary by special correspondent Om Narain]

[Text] Though as many as 39 agreements were signed in the crucial two-day meeting between George Bush and Boris Yeltsin, the most significant was the arms reduction accord. The two sides have decided to reduce the number of nuclear warheads from the present total of 21,000 to 6,000-7,000 by the year 2003 in two stages. The first phase will bring the total for both the countries down to about the 3,800-4,250 level, including 1,250 intercontinental ballistic missiles and 650 heavy missiles, the name for the Russian SS-18 variety. The second phase promises to whittle down the joint total to between 5,000 and 7,000. But is that the real solution to an arms-free world? By merely reducing the number of nuclear warheads and other weapons can they achieve the goal of international peace that the U.S.A. has been boasting about?

It is a clear indication that George Bush's intentions are far from this noble goal. After all, in the two-day deliberations between the two leaders, George Bush seems to have dictated the terms in the real sense of the word, mainly because he has promised Russia an initial financial aid of $4.5 billion. That decision also makes it clear that they want to create a kind of monopolistic control over the strategic arms. At the same time, it appears that while neither of the two leaders has been honest and clear, each one of them wants to retain considerable quantum of nuclear warheads and to keep some of their power (?drive). With that cheek, can the U.S. president and his administration talk of imposing free missile control sanctions against India and 20 other countries? The new sanctions listed by the U.S. Commerce Department provide for tighter controls on people and materials likely to be useful to these countries in building missiles or launch vehicles for war or peace. India has been mentioned as one of the first countries on this list because of its agreement with Russia on the supply of cryogenic rocket technology. Although India has merely [as heard] and unmistakably stated time out of number that its missile program is purely for peaceful purposes, George Bush is adamant.

India, as is known throughout the world, wants to carry on its space research program purely for peaceful purposes. Therefore, the role of the United States in this context is not understandable and not appreciative of such a big country as USA. India should ignore the warning held out by the USA and go ahead with its program of space research. It may be stated that India and Russia had entered into an agreement by which Russia was to supply its rocket technology to India. Even at that time, serious objections have been raised by George Bush, who made the world believe that India was going in for nuclear technology for purposes other than peaceful. This has been vehemently denied by both India and Russia. Boris Yeltsin had clearly stated that it had agreed to supply the cryogenic rocket to India after it was fully convinced that India's intentions were honest, sincere, and peaceful.

Right since independence, India has been advocating for international peace and cooperation and has been trying to restrict the use of arms for settlement of disputes between countries. In the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement and at other international fora it has been fighting for preservation of peace everywhere. The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has been following the same policy of peace, amity, and cooperation as was followed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi. India cannot deviate its path and would continue to advocate a strife-free and conflict-free world so that all-round progress can be made by humanity as a whole. The Boris Yeltsin-George Bush accord therefore cannot be called ideal for the preservation of peace. Only if the two countries and those which possess nuclear warheads decide once for all to destroy them before the end of the century, can one proudly enter into the 21st century with a clean, honest, and peaceful record. But it is very doubtful whether we can achieve that noble goal.

Commentary Views Indo-U.S. Naval Ties

BK2306030892 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 10 Jun 92 p 8

[By Rahul Roy-Chaudhury: "Indo-U.S. Naval Ties Can Go Far"]

[Text] The first Indo-American naval exercises have just been completed. Four warships—two destroyers and two frigates—carried out joint manoeuvres over a two-day period in the Indian Ocean. From a military joint of view, these exercises are of limited value. Their significance primarily lies in the political sphere in that they took place in spite of American sanctions against ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] and in the midst of demands for cancellation.

In view of the dramatic transformation of the global security environment, the American Kickleighter proposals of April 1991 advocated "expanded strategic co-operation" between the Indian and American armed forces. Although they dealt primarily with aspects of army-to-army co-operation, naval issues were not neglected. Formal offers of training facilities, periodic policy reviews, and joint staffs talks are expected soon.

In order to prepare for exercises with the United States, India carried out manoeuvres with navies of three other countries in quick succession. Within a period of six months (November 1991-May 1992) Indian warships trained with their counterparts from Australia, France and Britain. These operations were limited in scope and extent, involving simply crew readiness and communication skills.

These exercises are stated to be beneficial to the Indian Navy in two ways—they provide valuable lessons in tactics and strategy, and assure littoral states of India's peaceful intentions in the Indian Ocean. While there is an element of truth in the former, there are other means to demonstrate the latter.

Multi-dimensional naval exercises involving a number of principal warships, and spread over a few days, could indeed assist the Navy in improving operational capabilities. These could have been followed by a port call and a series of intensive seminars on various issues of doctrine. The exercises conducted recently, however, lacked the employment of submarines, carriers, and land- based maritime aircraft. In the absence of these combatants, effective anti-submarine and anti-ship tactics could not be displayed. Both the navies would acquire only a partial picture of each other's potential. To draw conclusions from these lessons would not only be foolish, but extremely dangerous as well.

Moreover, it is unlikely that Malaysia and Australia, which are critical of Indian naval expansion, will be satisfied by the sudden glasnost in policy. Naval operations off the Seychelles, Sri Lanka and the Maldives are not easily forgotten. A better case for India would be to stress its legitimate maritime interests in the Indian Ocean, and a minimal role (in association with the United States) in the maintenance of peace and stability in the area. The dominance of coastal vessels in the naval shipbuilding programme, the absence of a replacement for the carrier Vikrant, and the meager resources spent on the Navy could be highlighted. For instance, in 1990-91 and 1991-92, naval expenditure accounted for only 12.73 per cent (actuals) and 13.01 per cent (revised) of the defence budget. In 1992-93, this is estimated to fall to 12.76 per cent. Since 1988 the Navy has been given the least amount of capital expenditure amongst the armed forces.

In the long run the United States intends to neutralise the nuisance value of the Indian fleet (in terms of the security of maritime trade in the Indian Ocean). This could either be through co-option or the denial of sophisticated weapon technology, depending largely on the resolution of the nuclear issue and the proliferation of ballistic missiles.

Iran

Khamene'i, Qom Seminarians Discuss State Issues

LD1906074192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The members of the Qom Association of Seminarians met with the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, today. During the meeting, the leader of the Islamic revolution—stressing the fact that the system's movement is towards the sovereignty of divine commandments—pointed out the need for further struggle by all establishments for deploying and implementing Islamic edicts. Several members of the Association of Seminarians, during this meeting, elaborated about general state issues, especially the role of the people's religious revolution in their cheerfulness and activities in this divine system.

Khomeyni on Solidarity With 'Tyrannized Muslims'

LD2006092492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Addressing Basijis and families of the martyrs, MIAs, the war disabled, and former POWs from the Genaveh township today, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said that an inalienable principle of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran was to forge solidarity with tyrannized Muslims and protect those who are the victims of oppression.

He said: We must endeavor to formulate practical and effective ways to defend the rights of the Muslims of

Bosnia-Hercegovina and to prevent their slaughter by the Serbians. Negotiations and conferences are not effective as long as they fail to provide a comprehensive solution. [passage omitted] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni then said Basiji forces should be present on the world scene to defend the objectives of the Islamic revolution. He added that enemies and those who wish ill for us can see today that the Islamic Iran, despite all its economic problems, is busy strengthening and developing daily its economic, social, cultural, and military institutions. That is not to their liking. So it is incumbent on all of us to disappoint the enemies by solving the existing problems through patience and support for the government and all other regime organizations.

Velayati Discusses Ties With Jordan, Issues

JN2206092792 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jun 92 pp 16-17

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Hasan al-Tall in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Tall] How do you view relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Jordan since they have been restored?

[Velayati] There are several common denominators between Jordan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Islam is a common denominator between both countries that necessitates that they constantly meet and cooperate. Both countries' regional locations and responsibilities are extremely important. They have rendered great services to the Islamic world. Both countries and peoples also work to uphold the banner of Islam. As we know, Islam has a strong influence on both the Iranian and Jordanian societies. Islam, in addition to the international changes and the exchange of positions and interests, necessitates that the relations between both countries enjoy an advanced level of joint cooperation to serve both countries and to coordinate their positions in the interest of their joint issues. If Jordan was the first to name its ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, who presented his credentials to the president of the Republic, Iran will nominate its ambassador very soon, God willing, to complete the diplomatic equation and so that the wheel of cooperation moves in accordance with the rules.

[Al-Tall] The Jordanian foreign minister made an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, and it was reported more than once that you plan to visit Jordan, but the visit has not thus far occurred. Do you intend to visit Jordan in the near future?

[Velayati] My visit to Jordan was announced more than once. We officially met with the Jordanian foreign minister in Tehran. I also had the opportunity to meet with two former Jordanian foreign ministers. God willing, we will inform Jordan about the date of the visit. The reason for delaying my visit was due to the lack of time and the successive developments that prevented this visit from occurring.

[Al-Tall] Shall we announce this visit?

[Velayati] Yes, you can announce this visit that will occur soon, God willing.

[Al-Tall] There have been contradictory positions regarding the restoration of the Dome of the Rock and the holy places in Jerusalem and occupied Palestine. Jordan believes that the holy places are among its major responsibilities. Since the Islamic Republic of Iran shows extreme interest in all issues related to the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem and the occupied territories, then citizens in Jordan, and in fact, Muslims in the world want to learn about the Islamic Republic of Iran's position on this issue. Muslims are concerned about international interference through the UNESCO or other international institutions. Which would affect the future of Jerusalem and the holy places in the occupied territories?

[Velayati] One of the Zionist entity's worst objectives, which is an example of the Jewish arrogance, is to destroy the Islamic sites in the occupied territories. Such bad actions and the practices that conflict with the international and humanitarian rules saddened and angered all Muslims on earth. Muslims are dutybound to stop this arrogance against the Dome of the Rock and the holy places in the occupied territories. Muslims should move to protect and safeguard the holy places based on awareness and respect for the international laws and regulations in a way that would prevent the occurrence of a setback that, God forbid, could lead to the loss of the Arab right to supervise them. Based on this, we believe that Jordan, in accordance with the international norms, is the legitimate channel through which any effort should be made in this regard. Jordan is the side legitimately in charge of the Dome of the Rock and the holy places. We are with Jordan and support it over this issue in accordance with the international norms and its historic responsibilities for these holy places. The role of the Islamic states and Muslims in the world should be embodied by rendering services and providing technical skills. Iran, through the artistic skills it is known for in the world in the field of inscription, calligraphy, and other artistic skills, is fully prepared to contribute to and do its utmost in this field. We also expect that the other Islamic peoples and states follow suit so as to avoid giving the enemy a pretext to achieve its objectives and ambitions, especially after we heard the mayor of occupied Jerusalem saying that the Jews have the right to supervise the Dome of the Rock and the Islamic holy places. [passage omitted]

[Al-Tall] What do you have to say about the role Muslims should play in the new world order to avoid being persecuted as in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Bulgaria, Palestine, and Lebanon?

[Velayati] The new world order is based on several rules, such as: having confidence in the United Nations and considering it the side that should decide on international and regional developments; giving priority to regional cooperation; promoting confidence in and respect for human rights; decontaminating the environment and combatting pollution; and working to achieve disarmament. We do not object to these objectives. In fact, we support them. But there are other objectives that the new world order calls for and seeks to achieve. We have our own opinion about and position on these objectives. Among these objectives is calling for imposing the Western culture on the whole world, separation between religion and politics, peddling consumerism, and propagating a special concept of democracy that is allowed for some people but denied to others.

These are the pillars of the new world order. But behind these slogans there are hidden objectives. For example, the true essence of human rights applies only to their countries and peoples. Democracy for the Third World peoples is something different. It is appropriate for some people and denied to others, as was the case in some countries. The same applies to human rights in the Third World countries. Despite all these contradictions, I am not against establishing a new world order, but from our and their viewpoints, there are political, social, cultural, and economic differences. Just as we rejected the previous world order, we cannot accept the new world order as they want to tailor it for us. Our important responsibility is embodied by our sound efforts, based on Islamic criteria and principles, to establish a true world order that is in harmony with the circumstances of time and place. [passage omitted]

It seems that the time is now ripe to stress, in our capacity as representatives of the Islamic peoples, certain points that are necessary for maintaining world peace and security in their true sense, as proven by experience over the recent years. These points are:

1. Reaching a common understanding of the world peace and security dictum.
2. Encouraging understanding and constructive dialogue among the members of the international community.
3. Recognizing the true reasons behind regional crises and avoiding attempts to adopt a biased stand toward these crises.
4. Reducing the reasons for conflicts, tyranny, and aggression.
5. Guaranteeing political equality among world states.
6. Stressing the peoples' right to self-determination.
7. Exerting collective efforts in the field of international disarmament.
8. Avoiding discrimination in the field of regional disarmament, particularly in the Middle East region.
9. Destroying all the weapons of mass destruction.
10. Preventing the production and storage of weapons of mass destruction.

As long as peace and security have not yet been established in the world in their realistic sense, the Islamic nation must be prepared and vigilant. We see that the forces that are against us benefit from several axes to impose their will on us. So, why do we not benefit from our several strong axes to achieve our legitimate objectives and demands? For example, why do not we benefit from energy sources, large markets, strategic locations, the many voices at international forums, and from the Islamic resources in other countries? [passage omitted]

At the same time, industrial countries must acknowledge that they shoulder the major responsibility for destroying the environment. They must therefore contribute most toward stopping the ongoing destruction. They must not expect poor peoples in developing countries to pay for their crimes.

During the Gulf crisis, proceeding from the principles and criteria of the holy Islamic Sharia and the general rules that govern its foreign policy and based on the teachings of our late imam and the instructions of our great leader Ayatollah Khamene'i—and at a time when peace talks with the Iraqi Government were going through a delicate stage—the Islamic Republic of Iran condemned this aggression. Iran rejected any change in the political geography of the region in light of the danger of continuing and escalating foreign military presence in the region. Our country today, because of the great importance it attaches to safeguarding security in the Gulf, believes that the problems of the region's states can only be resolved through strong cooperation among these countries. Security and stability in this part of the world can only be possible through active cooperation among all of these states.

Relying to a great extent on the arrogant forces, the United States in particular, contradicts with the higher interests of the Muslim nation. Within the context of the Palestine question, those who place the interests of a handful of Zionists above the interests of the big Muslim nation cannot be suitable friends. If, during a dispute among the members of the Muslim nation, they rose to defend one party, this is not an indication of their sincerity, rather their hatred and a program through which they seek to divide the nation and find the necessary grounds to increase their presence, intervention, and plundering. We must organize our lives without depending on their capabilities.

[Al-Tall] In light of the continued Israeli aggression on southern Lebanon and the complete silence of the international community, Muslims look forward to an Iranian move, in cooperation with Syria, to generate real pressure by the region's regimes on the United Nations to put an end to the Israeli belligerence against Lebanon and the Arab citizens in Palestine.

[Velayati] I was in Lebanon a few days ago. One of the purposes of my visit was to declare that we support the Lebanese people. While I was there, Israeli warplanes continuously conducted raids. The Zionists were very angry about my presence in Lebanon. We will continue to support the sons of Lebanon and the Palestinians, not through words alone but through continuous action. During my visit to Turkey, God willing, to take part in the Islamic conference about Bosnia-Hercegovina, I will raise the issue of Palestine. During our negotiations with officials in Syria and Lebanon we reached a point of understanding that we are responsible for strengthening the resistance in Lebanon. This is because our pride and dignity are hostage to the achievement of the legitimate and historical demands of the heroic Palestinian people.

Palestine is nowadays passing through the most delicate, or rather bitter, stages of its history. Any negligence in this regard will, no doubt, have adverse effects on future Muslim generations.

The abhorrent, racist Zionist regime adopts an extremely intransigent position. It declares its unwillingness to discuss the issues of holy Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank, and continues its policy of bringing Jews to, building settlements, and expanding Jewish residential areas in the occupied territories.

Israel, which was basically founded on aggression, is never satisfied with the Muslim lands it has occupied, and seeks opportunities to achieve its expansionist intentions and continue its aggression against Muslim states to control their strategic resources. Throughout its illegitimate existence, Israel has spared no effort in seeking to attain such objectives. Now, with the help of the United States—its major financial and military supporter—Israel is proceeding rapidly along this road.

We believe that the wellbeing of the Muslim states is achieved by being aware of and ready to confront the Israeli attempts to achieve such objectives, and warning against optimism over the results of talks with such an enemy.

Pressing ahead with comprehensive jihad, supporting the intifadah, and continuing the struggle movement is the only way to achieve the rights of the oppressed Palestinian people. Muslim states must extend all types of support, and exploit their capabilities to form a strong front supporting the intifadah and this blessed jihad until the liberation of holy Jerusalem and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

As we declare our full support for Lebanon's territorial unity, independence, and its people's right to self-determination, we believe that southern Lebanon cannot be liberated from Zionist occupation unless Muslim and nationalist forces place, through coordination and joint action, the resistance of Zionist forces at the top of their priorities. [passage omitted]

Velayati Meets Lithuanian, Albanian Presidents

LD2006155492 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati met the Lithuanian president in Switzerland today to discuss matters of mutual interest. The Lithuanian president stressed the importance of expanding ties between Lithuania and the Islamic Republic of Iran and called for establishing air links between both countries; cooperation in oil and gas projects; exporting goods to Iran; and Lithuanian participation in the Tehran International Trade Fair.

Our country's foreign minister expressed the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand multifaceted ties with Lithuania.

Mr. Velayati also met today the Albanian president to discuss matters of mutual interest and expanding bilateral relations. During the meeting, the Albanian president expressed his country's interest in joining the Islamic Conference Organization and asked for the Islamic Republic of Iran's support in this regard.

Our country's foreign minister, for his part, welcomed the suggestion and stressed the need for expanding bilateral ties.

Deputy Foreign Minister Discusses Afghanistan

LD1906082892 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1522 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Interview with Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister in charge of Asia and Oceania, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Political Roundtable" program—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr. Borujerdi, may I thank you for coming to the program. My first question: After the collapse of Najibollah's regime, it was expected that the Afghan interim government would manage to create unity among the Afghan groups. But the Afghan interim government has not been that successful so far. What is the reason for this?
[Borujerdi] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful: Perhaps the most fundamental reason for the lack of unity and establishing discipline in Afghanistan is that the jihad or 51-member council in Peshawar, Pakistan, is not all-encompassing. It is natural that the nonparticipation of all the groups will lead to this. Of course, there are many efforts to solve this problem. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always followed a policy of affinity among all Afghan groups engaged in jihad. It is currently striving for the same policy.

Mr. Musavi, special envoy of the Iranian Government and director general of West Asia [in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs], left for Afghanistan a few days ago to participate in a second round of talks. Currently he is engaged in negotiations with the chiefs of jihad groups. We hope that [words indistinct]. Our serious and definite advice to all the chiefs of jihad groups of Afghanistan is this: Maintain unity and solidarity. Afghanistan cannot shoulder a civil war. The Muslim people of Afghanistan expect the mojahed chiefs to be thinking of establishing independence and calm and reconstructing Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Despite the good will shown by the Islamic Republic of Iran, it seems that some aliens are responsible for the lack of unity, which is one view. What is you view?
[Borujerdi] We heard this from the spokesperson of the Leadership Council of Afghanistan, and it is true. Alien armed forces are present in Kabul, to which, naturally, we are seriously opposed. We imagine that people who did not accept the domination of aliens and struggled and engaged in jihad for many years will not accept such a presence in any other form. We believe that this

presence—about which the Leadership Council of Afghanistan has spoken—can seriously destroy the security, order, and calm in Kabul and Afghanistan as a whole. Naturally, this is not beneficial to the people or the Afghani Government.

[Correspondent] Regarding the unity of various groups, we witnessed the signing of the eight-point agreement between Hekmatyar and 'Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. On the other hand, we are witnessing the opposition of Mojaddedi to this issue. We are also witnessing the opposition of Hekmatyar to the policies of the interim government. Considering all these differences of views, what will be the final outcome?

[Borujerdi] Forecasting the future of Afghanistan, particularly Kabul, which is the heart of Afghanistan, is a difficult task. Everything depends on the understanding of the jihad groups and their chiefs. As you are aware, it was agreed that after transferring the mojahedin from abroad to Kabul, the present regime, headed by the esteemed Mr. Mojaddedi, would go through a two-month period. After that, Mr. Rabbani was to assume power, followed by elections so that the situation would go towards consolidation, stability and calm. Of course, since this agreement was not all-encompassing, it met practical difficulties. Currently, an opposing view exists. Many of the Afghan Ulema of Afghanistan, as Mr. Mojaddedi said on many occasions, support the continuation of his rule, as do a number of groups.

As the Islamic Republic of Iran, we believe that the internal issues of Afghanistan must be decided by the Afghans themselves. They must decide. They have the required political maturity to make such a decision. There is no need for outside interference. As a country with a long border with Afghanistan and a country that has helped the mojahedin in their holy jihad against the occupying forces for many years, we will naturally give our advice. But it is they who will decide. We hope the situation does not lead to war or internal conflict. This is our definite advice and the main axis of the negotiations of the Islamic Republic of Iran's special envoy in Kabul. We do hope that they accept this brotherly advice. We want a peaceful Afghanistan along our border.

[Correspondent] Recently we witnessed some agreements between the Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] and the 51-member council. What is the framework within which the agreements have been reached?

[Borujerdi] Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami is one of the groups that did not join the Jihad Council, because it argued that the Shiites have not been given their rights in the Peshawar agreement. Since it is crucial that sovereignty in Afghanistan be all-embracing regarding all the factions—along with our friendly recommendations to all groups—we also impressed upon the Hezb-e Eslami brethren that it is in the interest of the people of Afghanistan and the Afghan issue for the unity to take an actual form. Of course, it is up to them to make the decision. It took a long time for the the Hezb-e's Central Council to came to the conclusion that they should come to an agreement with the government, and during many negotiations, which they had with Mr. Mojaddedi, the agreement took form. According to reports, the Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami managed to send eight people to the 51-member group and three ministries—one of which is the key Ministry of Internal Security—and one person in the Leadership Council. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

We are satisfied with this, just as we are interested and hopeful that the rest of the groups—which again are beset by dissatisfaction and problems—have their problems resolved and that we witness an Afghanistan that is whole.

[Correspondent] God willing. One of the issues that you referred to in a former discussion was the elections in Afghanistan. Considering the agreements reached, will the elections be conducted according to envisaged plans or not?

[Borujerdi] Most naturally elections need a calm environment. One dares to say that no such atmosphere exists in the status quo in Kabul, considering the continuous clashes that we hear about from the media and considering the insecurity that unfortunately is dominant at the moment. Until the proper environment is created for elections, in my opinion, elections in Afghanistan will not be practical. Of course we hope that the time for elections comes very quickly. We hope that what Mr. 'Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and Mr. Hekmatyar have agreed on is accepted by others as well and is implemented.

On the whole, the elections may be the best choice for stability and tranquillity in Afghanistan. But naturally it will require its own conditions. We would like these elections to be held quickly, considering its effect on stability, as well as ready to put the Islamic Republic of Iran's many election experiences at the disposal of our Muslim Afghan brethren.

[Correspondent] Mr. Borujerdi, regarding recent major developments that evolved in Afghanistan, does the UN still intend to conduct its five-point plan, or has it introduced a new plan on its agenda?

[Borujerdi] What became evident from our discussions with the UN special envoy on Afghan affairs, His Excellency Mr. Sevan, is that before the current Afghan developments, all of the efforts of the UN special envoy, and the UN as a whole, concentrated on implementing the five-point statement. But the Afghan developments evolved faster than the UN efforts. Events occurred that could not be envisaged that also stopped the UN special envoy's efforts in that regard.

Currently, all UN efforts concentrate on returning the refugees from Iran and Pakistan back to Afghanistan. We welcomed that. Pakistan has done the same. It seems that one of the most important tasks is returning around 6 million Afghan refugees who are currently in Iran and Pakistan. Their return is an important issue, and we believe they should return with their dignity preserved and under appropriate conditions. It is natural that the UN help is very seriously required in that respect.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Interior Ministry has also made much efforts in that regard. We hope that that task, returning Afghan refugees, is implemented with attention paid to the sensitivity of the matter.

Replying to the question that if the UN has other plans on its agenda, I do not think so. But it is possible that if all of the current political efforts on Afghanistan fail to achieve any result, the situation might arise that the UN naturally activates its five-point statement again.

[Correspondent] Thank you for your participation in the program.
[Borujerdi] Thank you.

Western Media Accused of Fanning Afghan 'Flames'

LD1906182192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] The Afghan news agency representative accused the Western media of trying to fan the flames of Afghanistan's internal conflicts.

Mr. Mohammad Alam Izadyar, the representative of the Afghan BAKHTAR news agency who is in Tehran to participate in the Nonaligned Movement Pool of News Agencies meeting, told our correspondent today: The Westerners are most afraid of the setting up of an Islamic government in Afghanistan on the Iranian model and naturally try to intensify the internal crisis and the power struggles there. He added: The West's aid to Afghanistan is merely to consolidate domination over that country's people and to prevent the establishment of an Islamic system there. Today, America is frightened of the realization of a strong alliance between the Muslims of Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the Muslim inhabited independent Central Asian Republics.

The Afghan news agency representative welcomed the mutual cooperation between that news agency and the Islamic Republic of Iran's mass media and said: I hope that the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the consideration of the mutual culture and religion of the two nations of Iran and Afghanistan, will play a valuable role in reconstructing the BAKHTAR news agency.

'New Wave of Purges' Begins in Iraqi Army

NC1806204492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] A new wave of purges involving personnel of various ranks has begun in the Iraqi Army. The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] disclosed that in June Iraqi authorities began arresting and executing scores of officers and soldiers, particularly from units deployed in the southern marshland.

In an unrelated development, Iraqi Mujahidin ambushed Staff Colonel Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din and killed him in 'Adan Square in Baghdad.

Ex-Brigadier Says Morale Low

LD2006104992 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Vienna, June 18, IRNA—A former Iraqi Army officer, Brigadier Adnan Mohammad Nuri, said here Thursday that the Iraqi Army would support any planned opposition initiative.

Nuri, who is attending a 3-day meeting of Iraqi opposition groups which opened Wednesday, said that "the Army is not regarded as a national institution. It feels that it has been diverted from its role to become an agent of Saddam".

Nuri said that the morale in the regular army was low. "A coherent strategy would allow the army to express the will of the Iraqi people and join forces with any opposition movement".

He told the meeting that the army would not attack Kurdistan if the opposition were to base themselves there. "With the support of the regular army the republican guard could be isolated", he added.

Some 140 delegates from various Iraqi opposition groups are attending the Iraqi Democratic National Congress in the Austrian capital. According to the organisers, the participants at the talks include members of the Kurdish Democratic Party, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and delegates from the recently elected Kurdish parliament.

Health Minister Malekzadeh Visits Tajikistan

LD1806200692 Tehran IRNA in English 0836 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Moscow, June 18, IRNA—Visiting Iranian Health Minister Dr. Reza Malekzadeh discussed Tehran-Dushanbe medical and health cooperation with Tajik Deputy Prime Minister Said Muradov and Health Minister Jure Inamov in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe Wednesday [17 June].

Dr. Malekzadeh, who is touring the newly-independent republics of Central Asia, arrived in Dushanbe Tuesday from the Turkmenian capital of Ashkhabad.

Muradov called for Tehran's assistance in the fields of pharmaceutical industry and hygienic products.

Dr. Malekzadeh and Inamov discussed bilateral cooperation in different medical fields and exchange of professors and students between the two countries.

To this end, it was also decided that the medical faculties of Tehran and Tabriz Universities establish exchange programs with universities of Dushanbe and Khajand of Tajikistan.

Memoranda of Understanding Signed

NC1906135892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Four memoranda of understanding were signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Tajikstan at the end of Health Minister Dr. Reza Malekzadeh's visit to Tajikstan. Based on one of the memoranda, both countries are to cooperate in the medicine and pharmaceuticals fields and will exchange scientific and research information and specialists.

According to a plan that will be called Abu 'Ali Sina road, international medical seminars will be held in cities that lie on the road taken by Abu 'Ali Sina from his birthplace to Hamadan.

In another memorandum, Iran will assist the newly established republic in setting up pharmaceutical plants in Tajikstan and will deliver the necessary equipment.

In two other memoranda, the sides agreed to exchange lecturers and students, scientific knowledge, and research.

Postal, Communications Accord Signed With Kuwait

LD1806212392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] At the end of Kuwaiti Communications Minister Jawhar Hayat's visit to Iran, a postal and communications agreement was signed between both countries this afternoon. After signing the agreement, Post, Telegraph and Telephone Minister Gharazi said in an interview with our correspondent: Mechanization and assigning codes for the mail and financial post via fax in Kuwait and installing a tower with a capacity of 960 telecommunication channels are some of the contents of the agreement.

In the same interview, Mr Jawhar Hayat said: After the liberation of Kuwait, establishing communications with Iranian brothers was one of our first aims, and expanding communications—especially with advanced equipment—is our aim now as well. He added: In the mail field, the Islamic Republic of Iran is far advanced, and we hope to utilize such resources in our own country through training in Iran.

[Tehran IRNA in English in a Tehran-datelined item at 1915 GMT on 18 June adds: "Kuwaiti Communication Minister Habib Jawhar Hayat left here for Kuwait today at the end of his five-day visit here. Before departure al-Hayat inked a protocol with Iranian Post, Telegraph and Telephone Minister Mohammad Gharazi on mutual postal and telecommunications cooperation. Meanwhile, Hayat called on all friendly countries to contribute in the reconstruction of his country. Speaking to IRNA, he termed the burning of the Kuwaiti oil wells as "the biggest disaster of the contemporary world" and said Iran was the first country which helped Kuwait in extinguishing the fire of the oil wells. "Many Iranian brothers are now busy in reconstruction efforts in Kuwait," he added. Elsewhere, Hayat said the airlines of the two countries have agreed to expand their flights to Kuwait and Iran. Denying the arrest and deport of the foreign nationals from Kuwait, Hayat said Kuwait is an open country, and every individual who respects the laws and regulations can reside in Kuwait."]

Camp Set Up in Nakhichevan, Protocols Signed

LD1906085792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Continuing the Western Azerbaijan province relief work for the people of the autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan, a camp was set up in that republic for settling war-stricken people. The camp includes 500 tents and is equipped with all the required equipment, such as fly sheets, blankets, nylon (?sheets), water containers, and the like. At the same time, dozens of tonnes of food have been transported to Nakhichevan to be distributed between the war-wounded and the war refugees.

Some Western Azerbaijan officials, who traveled to Nakhichevan to set up the camp and hand over the relief supplies, during their stay in that republic met and met with the president and other republic officials.

During those meetings, both sides signed three protocols. Based on the protocols, a common market will be created in the Poldasht border strip and the Western Azerbaijan province—while continuing its efforts for settling war refugees—will be constructing a bridge on the Aras River. The Western Azerbaijan delegation also went to the Nakhichevan hospital and visited those wounded during the clashes in Sadarak.

Air Links Planned Between Tehran, Amman

LD1806110492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] At the conclusion of a visit by the head of Jordan's civil aviation organization to Iran, a cooperation agreement for aviation was signed between both countries. According to our correspondent, based on this agreement—signed this morning between the deputy road minister and head of the civil aviation authority and the head of Jordan's civil aviation organization—both countries agreed to establish air links between Tehran and Amman in the near future.

Rebel Group Accused of 'Inhumane' Transfusions

LD1906165492 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] In a television report, the hypocrites organization [derogatory reference to the Mojahedin-e Khalq] was accused of the inhumane act of transfusing AIDS-tainted blood to more than half a million people in France. According to a report by the Central News Unit from

Paris, last night the French television Channel One announced that one of the high-ranking members of the hypocrites, Dr. Bahman Habibi, during more than three years of service in the post of scientific deputy in the French Blood Transfusion Organization was the main agent in this inhumane act. He is now among the main defendants accused of transfusing AIDS-tainted blood.

According to the report, under pressure from public opinion and in light of the extent of the disaster, four of the people found responsible in this incident, including Habibi, will be prosecuted.

Rebel Radio Denies Charges

NC2006180692 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] The impotent, decrepit Khomeyni dregs—who put their land and air forces on alert due to their extensive terrorist plans against the mojahedin—were neutralized and foiled in various cities throughout Iran. They resort to mourning and litanies out of sheer helplessness following the meeting between the leader of the Iranian resistance with the Iraqi president. Last night, in words couched in ambiguities, they claimed that a member of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] committed an unprecedented act and was involved in the transfusion of infected blood in more than half a million French citizens.

The clerical regime's babbling against the MKO and the Iranian resistance is nothing new; they are merely reaching a new low by hiding behind these fabrications.

The Khomeyni regime's radio and television carried a report last night that one Bahman Habibi, an employee of the French Blood Transfusion Center, is a high-level MKO official. The fact is that the MKO has never had anyone by that name on its registration sheets.

Two nights ago, French television carried a denial that this person is not now nor ever has been a member of the MKO; but the flimsy propaganda of the clerics once again, out of sheer abjectness and insolvency, seized the opportunity to sling some mud at the MKO.

We wish to inform our dear listeners that the issue of AIDS-infected blood is a major crisis in France. People say that Mitterrand's opponents are using it to topple the current socialist government. Those conversant with the situation and problems of France know that this issue has been one of the burning social and political controversies there for quite some time. The stupid officials and clerics of the Khomeyni regime, who believe the MKO is the root of all their problems, have reached the conclusion—as if they received some hot information from Interpol—that the MKO is to be blamed for this French crisis. The recoiling clerics, who are still reeling from the recent heroic uprisings and are (?concerned) about their imminent downfall, are (?fabricating these lies).

Daily Says Turkish Government Hostile to Iran

LD1806203692 Tehran IRNA in English 0842 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA—In a commentary Thursday [18 June], the Persian daily "SALAM" criticized the policies of the Turkish Government towards Iran, saying that within the framework of Turkey's attitude towards the Islamic republic the last Thursday raid against an Iranian passenger train in Mus, Turkey, implies tacit arrangements between the Turkish authorities and the raiders. It said in part:

"Ever since the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran to maintain and develop good neighborly relations with neighbors and especially with the Muslim states has been a practical policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [as published]

"Despite their mutual alignment with the U.S. policies before the revolution, the Tehran-Ankara relations were not especially fruitful, specifically in the cultural and economic areas, and the volume of Iran-Turkey trade did not ever go beyond dlrs. 75 million per year. That for obvious reasons: the Turks rather than think of building long-term constructive economic relations with their Eastern neighbor were dreaming of their unity with the economic community and the Shah's Government, too, relying on a uni-product oil economy and exports to Turkey mainly acted as a channel through which to send exports to Europe.

"But after the triumph of the Islamic revolution, and during the imposed war Tehran-Ankara relations considerably grew to unprecedented levels, the volume of their trade exchanges reaching dlrs. 2,000 million, which was far beyond the most optimistic expectations of the Turks...

"The Turks fully benefited from the advantages of that policy of Iran, but since they tended to look at the policy simply as the war-time consequences in Iran they capitalized on the situation only economically without trying to get politically any closer to Iran. Despite that, far from doing anything by way of getting closer to Iran, Turkey went even more hostile with Iran, every day creating a new problem in her relations with Iran on the pretext of a new cause.

"Among her hostile actions against Iran were launching pernicious propaganda against the Islamic republic, support for the counterrevolution in Iran including the monarchists and the outlawed Mujahideen Khalq Organization (MKO), unwise encounters at the borders, and others...

"It is unfortunate that after the end of the Iraq-Iran war Turkey has adopted strange policies in her relations with Iran, some of those policies having been: launching negative propaganda against Iran in its media, the screening of a disreputable film against Iran on the Turkish television, strange but deliberate operations in the Central Asian republics and especially in Azerbaijan and promoting 'nationalistic' considerations, promoting relations with

Israel to the point of exchanging ambassadors and establishing economic relations with Tel Aviv, getting closer to the United States and her Western allies.

"The Turks have gained a lot in their relations with Iran: perhaps those gains are incomparable with what they have obtained as a result of their relations with the West.

"The people of Turkey would not see that their government show such a degree of gross negligence towards the security of the Muslim brothers in Turkey as to suggest a tacit collaboration between the Turkish officials with the raiders who attacked an Iranian passenger train near Mus last Thursday.

Prisoners Pardoned To Mark Islamic Feasts

LD1806124992 Tehran IRNA in English 0833 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA—Upon the approval of leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, 1,528 prisoners were pardoned or their sentence commuted on the occasion of two major Islamic feasts, 'Id al-Adha' and 'Id al-Khadir', June 12 and 20, it was announced here Thursday.

The request for pardon was made by Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi and will apply to prisoners of the Islamic Revolution's courts, public courts and military tribunals.

'Id al-Adha marks the 10th day of the month of Zel-Hajja on which day Hajj rituals are ended by pilgrims sacrificing sheep. 'Id al-Khadir is the 18th day of the same month which marks nomination of Hadhrat 'Ali (a.s.) [peace be upon him, pbuh], the first Imam of the Shi'ite Muslims and also Prophet Mohammad's (pbuh) cousin and son-in-law, as the prophet's successor.

In a letter to the leader, Ayatollah Yazdi noted that the request was made in conformity with Para. 11 of Article 10 of the Constitution. He added that the list was prepared by the Pardon Commission of the Judiciary.

Clandestine Radio Reports Further National Unrest

NC2006184192 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] A few days after the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] and the Voice of Mojahed radio disseminated reports about a heroic uprising of the residents of Bukan—which received extensive national and international coverage—one of the regime's newspapers admitted that a clash did occur in Bukan.

In an article yesterday, SALAM mentioned the Bukan uprising, saying: Seventeen people were killed and wounded in the incident. The newspaper then criticizes all the other newspapers and the regime's media, noting: The people have the right to ask why the Los Angeles riots were reported in the papers, the radio, and the television, but there was nothing about the incidents in Arak, Shiraz, and Mashhad. Why was the unrest in Bukan two weeks ago—in which 17 people were killed and wounded and damage was extreme—not mentioned?

The newspaper, however, does not explain why it did not run the report until six days after the fact and after the problems were reported by the MKO. Even now, it is only mentioning the events as a minor incident.

SALAM admitted that the incident occurred and that the international media did report it. REUTER carried a report entitled: Uprising in Iran. Citing the regime's newspaper, it stated that the report, the first by the Iranian regime about the incident, was disseminated six days after the Iranian resistance movement announced that at least four people were killed by the regime's guards in Bukan. REUTER then points out that in the article in the regime's newspaper, no details were given about the unrest in Bukan. It then cites the information contained in the MKO statement, which was disseminated last week. It adds that in its efforts to conceal the facts, the Khomeyni regime cut Bukan's communication links with the rest of the country.

Reports of people's protests in other cities reached the Voice of Mojahed radio. In Shiraz, scattered clashes were reported between the people and regime forces. In Lahijan, a large crowd of people staged demonstrations against the Khomeyni regime and its mercenary employees in this city, but details have not yet been made available.

Other reports indicate that the atmosphere in Tehran is extremely tense and that sporadic clashes did occur, during which some buses were set on fire. The Khomeyni regime—scared that the fury of the residents of Greater Tehran will intensify—put its law enforcement forces on a maximum state of alert.

From Tabriz, reports were received of a student strike. In the past few weeks, the perceptive and combattant students of Tabriz University went on strike against the Khomeyni regime and its inhumane policy. The combattant students clashed with the regime's agents in Tabriz square, and people rushed to their aid, beating up the regime's mercenary guards. A complete report will be given as soon as we receive a more complete report.

Antiregime graffiti and slogans—saying death to Hashemi-Rafsanjani and death to Khamene'i—are inscribed on the walls in the town of Khomam, near Bandar Anzali. They reappear even though the regime's agents continually erase them. It was reported from Khorramabad in Lorestan that on the eve of 20 June—which marks the anniversary of the Iranian peoples' new revolution, that is, the formation of the National Liberation Army [NLA]—brochures and propaganda literature with photographs of the NLA's ceremonial parade and its commander in chief were widely disseminated.

Out of utter fear of the popular uprising by the disgusted people and in order to buttress the Basij and other debilitated agencies of repression, the dregs of the terminally-ill Khomeyni regime staged some marches and farcical rigged-up maneuvers nationwide. The regime's newspapers reported about another maneuver called Sarallah with the guards of eastern Tehran at the Shirudi stadium. ETTELA'AT openly stated that this maneuver was meant as a show of strength and defense readiness, which is exactly what this decrepit and tottering regime greatly needs.

Clandestine Radio on Khatami's Resignation Offer

NC1806205092 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Our sources within the Hashemi-Rafsanjani government tell us that the Islamic Guidance Minister Khatami's offer to resign will be officially accepted in three days. The reason for this delay is to give Hashemi-Rafsanjani time to create a new post for Khatami before accepting his resignation to save the regime face. Khatami's resignation comes as a result of direct and indirect pressure from Hashemi-Rafsanjani's clique, which began pressuring Khatami some eight months ago. Demonstrations were staged against him in Qom and Karaj, and Khatami stated that neither Hashemi-Rafsanjani or Khamene'i expressed any support for him during those rough times.

One of Khatami's relatives said that Khatami decided to resign before he was removed from office.

The Hashemi-Rafsanjani clique believes that Khatami has been too lenient in controlling and censoring the press. AFP says that the resignation is a forerunner to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's clique gaining control of the ministry. This news agency adds that extricating this ministry from the clutches of the hardliners has frequently been a source of intense contention between the regime's two factions.

AFP speculates that either Vice President Habibi; Reyshahri; or Masih Mohajeri, current JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI editor in chief, will be Khatami's successor.

Air Fares for Domestic Flights To Increase

LD2006163992 Tehran IRNA in English 1919 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA—The price of air tickets for domestic flights is to go up soon, Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia announced here Thursday.

The minister did not reveal how much plane tickets would increase but said the deatils would shortly be released by the country's High Economic Council.

He said the decision to raise air tickets price was due to an increase in services and other expenses born by the aviation industry. "In order to survive, the industry should become self-sufficient," Sa'idi-Kia told a press conference.

He said there are 150,000 kms of main, side, rural and access roads in the country of which 50,000 kms are access roads.

"At present," the minister pointed out, "11,000 kms of main and side roads and 3,000 kms of rural roads are under construction."

Some 400 kms of highways are being built by non-governmental firms, Sa'idi-Kia said, adding that some 6,000 kms of roads are being either repaired or asphalted.

The minister also said that some rials 12 billion have been allocated to building of terminals throughout the country this year. He put the number of existing terminals at 12.

"Some 43,000 new trucks are to replace the aging ones by the end of the five year development plan launched in 1989," said 'Ali Sa'id-Nejad, deputy minister of roads and transportation for surface trasportation, who was present at the press confernece.

He said over the past two years, 20,000 trucks and trailers have been added to the country's truck fleet.

As predicted in the five year plan, he said, some 23,000 mini-buses and 18,000 buses are to be added to surface passenger fleet.

Sa'idi-Kia's other deputy who is managing-director of the state railway organization Sadeq 'Afshar briefed reporters on the performance and future plans of his organization.

'Afshar said some 1,800 kms of railroads are being constructed across the country, of which 1,000 kms are two line track and the remaining 800 kms single line track.

In addition, he said, a plan to build 5,000 kms of railtracks solely by Iranians experts is under study.

The first phase of a 250 km railtrack linking Bafq in Kerman Province to Bandar Abbas, Hormuzgan Province, is to become operational soon, 'Afshar said, adding that once the project fully goes to stream in 1996, the transportation capacity of his organization would increase to 40 million tons a year.

Last year, he said, 8.2 million passengers and 17 million tons of cargoes were transported by train.

The state railway organization intends to purchase 400 passenger cars from Pars Wagon Manufacturing Company by 1994, including 50 cars already delivered, he said.

The organization, he said, has signed a contract for purchase of 2,800 cargo cars from Pars Company.

There are some 700 passenger cars and 14,000 cargo wagons giving services in the country's railway networks.

He said the organization has purchased 100 second hand passenger cars totally worth dlrs five million from abroad and inked a contract to buy 60 cars from Canada that are to arrive in the country gradually by the year end.

Oil Imports, Exports, Consumption Figures Noted

LD1806211292 Tehran IRNA in English 1141 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 18, IRNA—Iran is one of the significant consumers of petroleum products, ranking among the top 15 consumers in the world. Iran also consumes more petroleum products than any other member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Reported the IRANOIL NEWS magazine in a recent issue.

The National Petroleum Products Distribution Company of Iran, a subsidary of NIOC [National Iranian Oil Company] is responsible for distribution of petroleum products throughout Iran, a country with over 1,648,000 square kilometers in area and a climate with temperature difference of up to 60 degrees Celsius on the same day in different regions.

According to a report in the latest issue of "IRANOIL NEWS," a publication of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), petroleum products are also distributed by marine transportation in the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, areas in the extreme southern part of Iran as well as in the Caspian Sea districts in north Iran.

The total domestic petroleum consumption was estimated at about 935,000 barrels per day last fiscal year. This high consumption is despite the growing share of natural gas, which has now reached to about 285,000 barrels per day of oil equivalent.

During the period 1987-1991, motor gasoline consumption was raised by about 5.6 per cent per annum, reaching to about 148,000 b/d [barrels per day] in 1991.

Following the resumption of the Abadan refinery operation, motor gasoline imports were decreased, and during the said year only about 9,000 b/d of mainly lead free motor gasoline was imported. Motor gasoline production in 1991 amounted to about 138,000 b/d. Estimations indicate that about 116,000 b/d of kerosene was produced internally, and about 13,000 b/d imported during 1991.

Kerosene consumption during the period 1987-1991 has increased by about 5.2 percent per year, reaching about 151,000 b/d in 1991.

Quantity wise, gas oil is the highest consumed petroleum product in Iran. Total gas oil consumption in 1991 was estimated at about 350,000 b/d, of which 277,000 b/d was produced internally and about 72,000 b/d imported.

During 1987-1991 gas oil consumption increased about 4.8 percent per annum.

Production of fuel oil is more than the internal requirement; therefore, about 88,000 b/d of this product was exported last year. Fuel oil production and consumption were estimated at about 308,000 b/d and 22,000 b/d respectively over the same period.

About 65,000 b/d of special petroleum products such as aviation gasoline, aviation turbine kerosenes, solvents, lubricating oil and bitumens were consumed in the country. 61,000 b/d of the said special products were produced internally, and over 2,000 b/d was imported over this period.

Funds Allocated for Natural Resources

LD1806213492 Tehran IRNA in English 1059 GMT 18 Jun 92

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azerbijan Prov., June 18, IRNA—The Construction Jihad Ministry has allocated Rls. 75,000 million of credit for rehabilitation of natural resources of the country in the current Iranian year (started March 21), Minister of Construction Jihad Gholam Reza Foruzesh said here Wednesday [17 Jun].

18 research centers have been established throughout the country where near 1,000 experts and researchers are studying rehabilitation of natural resources, Foruzesh told IRNA.

He said in light of the massive damage inflicted on the natural resources of the country, participation of the private sector in rehabilitation efforts is inevitable.

Foruzesh said that the potentials of the province are "outstanding," adding that this northwestern province could be turned into a major agricultural and live stock breeding poles through further investment.

Pakistan

Sharif Confident on UK Role in Kashmir Dispute

BK1906150092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] The British home secretary, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, hosted a dinner in London in honor of Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister expressed the confidence that Britain can play a major role in resolving the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India. An early and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir problem would not only ensure peace in South Asia but would accelerate the pace of progress and development both in Pakistan and India. He said it would be ironic and indeed tragic if the current breeze of democracy and human rights sweeping across the globe is shut out from the valley of Kashmir. Pakistan is committed to seeking a resolution of all issues with India through peaceful negotiations. Kashmir is the core issue which has been the source of tension between the two countries for over four decades. He said people of Jammu and Kashmir who have been denied their right of self-determination as promised to them by the United Nations have risen to seek their just right. He said Pakistan and Britain share common perceptions in seeking peace and stability internationally and regionally.

Sharif Returns After Visits to Rio, Spain, UK

BK2206024092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif returned to Islamabad last night after his successful 12-day visit to Rio de Janeiro, Spain, and the United Kingdom. He was received at Islamabad airport by Chaudhary Nissar Ali Khan, federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, elected representatives, the British High Commissioner to Pakistan, and senior officials.

Earlier, the prime minister was given a very warm sendoff at Heathrow airport when he departed London for home. The British prime minister's special representative, the Pakistani ambassador to the United Kingdom, and a large number of Pakistanis were present at the airport to see off the prime minister.

Chinese Parliamentary Delegation Arrives

BK1906153692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] An 11-member Chinese parliamentary delegation led by Madam Qian Zhengying arrived in Karachi today on a 10-day visit to Pakistan. In a statement on her arrival, the delegation leader said the visit will further strengthen friendly relations between Pakistan and China.

Senate Chairman Fetes Delegation

BK2006031692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad has described the denial of the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people by India as a constant threat to the establishment of peace and stability in the South Asian region. Addressing a banquet hosted by him in honor of the visiting Chinese parliamentary delegation in Islamabad yesterday, he said Pakistan desires to promote friendly relations with all countries and peaceful resolution of all issues, including Kashmir, in the region. Wasim Sajjad said although India has adopted a negative attitude in connection with the efforts initiated by Pakistan for the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue, Pakistan will, however, continue its efforts to solve the issue.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese delegation leader, Madame Qian Zhengying said that China and Pakistan have identical stands on most of the issues. She said Pakistan is playing a positive role for prosperity and defense of peace in Asia, especially South Asia.

Earlier, during a meeting with the Senate chairman, the Chinese delegation leader said her country supports Pakistan's efforts for the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue and its proposal for nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia. She also supported Pakistani efforts in connection with the peaceful resolution of the Afghan issue. The Senate chairman also briefed the delegation about Pakistani efforts in connection with a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue and declaring South Asia a nuclear free zone.

Delegation Meets With Officials

BK2206023892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] National Assembly speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan has said the Kashmir issue is the major obstacle in the way of improving relations with India. Speaking to the delegation of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in Islamabad last night, the speaker said if the Kashmir issue is resolved, we can divert more resources for developmental programs after reducing our armed forces. He apprised the delegation of the human rights violations committed by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir.

Chinese Delegation Leader Madame Qian Zhengying said the PRC longs for a peaceful and just solution to the Kashmir issue. The Chinese delegation also called on Secretary General for Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki. Expressing satisfaction at the close, stable and friendly relations between Pakistan and PRC, the two sides hoped that these relations will be further strengthened in the years to come.

Curfew in Karachi Extended to 11 Areas

BK2006024092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Curfew has been imposed in areas under jurisdiction of 11 police stations in Karachi following clashes between rival factions of a linguistic organization. A statement issued late last night says the curfew comes into force with immediate effect in Joharabad, Nazimabad, Sharifabad, and Gul Bahar police station areas and it will continue until further orders. Earlier, curfew was imposed in Liaqatabad, Brigade, Shah Faisal Colony, Model Colony, Malir Extension, and Landhi sectors.

Sri Lanka

Forces Destroy 3 'Terrorist Camps' in Offensive

BK1306113492 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] The troops of Operation Whirlwind—Chandamarutha—were yesterday reported consolidating their extended forward defense locality from Tellippalai to Senthakulam on the northwest coast of Jaffna. A spokesman for the Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH that the security forces' area of control on the northern capital of Jaffna extends from the

Tondaimannar bridge to Senthakulam and include Kankesanturai, the peninsula's principal port, and the sprawling military base at Palali. Terrorist camps, namely (Valasi), (Ranjan), and (Samman); and five terrorist vehicles were destroyed by air attack. Meanwhile, the navy provided naval gunfire on coastal positions.

5 'Terrorists,' 1 Soldier Killed 17 Jun

BK1806123092 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0909 GMT 18 Jun 92

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 18 Jun (LANKAPUVATH)—Five terrorists and one soldier were killed, Wednesday [17 June] in separate incidents, at Badulu Junction, Bakkiella village, and Sittandy in the eastern province of Sri Lanka, the Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH.

On Wednesday, a group of terrorists engaged the security forces detachment with small arms and one soldier was killed as a result of terrorists small arms fire at Badulu junction in the eastern Ampara District.

A group of terrorists had forced the civilians to vacate the kovil [temple] area west of Sittandy in the eastern Batticaloa District. On receipt of information, a security forces party rushed to the area and with the assistance of a heli gunship engaged the group, killing four of them. The heli gunship also engaged and destroyed a canter truck and a double cab belonging to the terrorists.

Meanwhile, on seeing a group of four terrorists, security forces fighting patrol Wednesday opened fire, killing one terrorist at Bakkiella village.

Curfew Imposed in Jaffna District 18 Jun

BK1806120892 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0912 GMT 18 Jun 92

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 18 June (LANKAPUVATH)—A curfew has been imposed in the Jaffna District except in the islands under security forces control with effect from 0600 hours [0030 GMT] Thursday (today), the Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH.